An EASIE and SAFE

METHOD

For CURING the

King's Evil.

With ſeveral OBSERVATIONS of great Uſe and Service to People afflicted with that Diſtemper:

To which is added, a *Specimen* of *Succeſs*, in a faithful Relation of ſundry Cures on Men, Women and Children.

In a Letter to a Friend.

The Fourth Edition, with Additions.

The Lord hath created Medicines out of the Earth, and he that is wiſe will not abhor them; and hath given Men Power and Skill, that he might be honour'd in his marvellous Works, Eccluſ. xxxviii. 4, 6.

Exiſtimo Deum perfecte & ſufficienter in Simplicibus compoſuiſſe complet[illegible] quorumcunque remedia. —— [illegible] qui Simplicibus tuto atque prom[illegible] novit tollere & conculcare morbos. *Helmont.*

By WILLIAM VICKERS, M.A.

LONDON:

Printed for *S. Manſhip*, at the *Ship* againſt the *Royal-Exchange*, *Cornhil*; and *A. Collins* at the *Black Boy*, over-againſt Saint *Dunſtan's* Church, in *Fleetſtreet*. 1710.

19714 Bi 60

An EASIE and SAFE METHOD FOR *CURING* THE King's Evil, &c.

SIR,

IN Compliance with your late Requeſt, I have ſent you a ſhort Account of my Method for curing the *King's Evil*, a Diſtemper, you know, I was from my Infancy extremely afflicted withal; which continued ſo many Years on me, with that Violence, that all Hopes of Cure were given over by my Friends and Self. The Diſtemper had ſeiz'd upon both my Arms, upon my Right-Hand, *The Author's Condition.*

the Fore-finger of my Left, and alſo upon both my Feet, in ſuch a Degree, that ſeveral Surgeons were of Opinion that both Hands and Feet muſt be cut off. The Humour likewiſe fell with that Severity on both Eyes, that the Sight of each was judged irrecoverably loſt. In fine, my whole Body became ſo extremely Weak and Feeble, with continual Runnings in ſo many places, that for many Years I could neither go nor ſtand, without Crutches. In this miſerable Condition, (without any Hopes or Proſpect of Relief) I lived many Years, until it pleaſed God to direct me to the Knowledge of thoſe Means, the extraordinary Effects whereof as much exceeded mine and all other Peoples Expectations, as the Benefit reaped did my Merits; by the Uſe whereof, God be praiſed, in a very few Months, I became perfectly Sound and Well. It's now full twenty Years ſince I was heal'd, enjoying as good Health and Sight as moſt People do, without any Fear or Apprehenſions of a Relapſe, being able to endure the coldeſt Weather, to read until Midnight, and to walk as much Ground, every Day, as the generality of People do, without ſuffering any Prejudice thereby. I once thought, as moſt People do, that the *King's-Evil*, eſpecially in ſuch a high Degree as I had it, was incurable; and I had reaſon to believe it, after many Years Endeavours had been ſpent for a Cure to ſo little Purpoſe, concluding, that when the Endeavours of many able and skilful Phyſicians had all along proved ineffectual, there remain'd nothing more to be done. As my ſad

Condition made me a diligent Enquirer after all ſort of Remedies; ſo I never declined the Uſe of any Means, which might give me the leaſt Hopes or Proſpect of Succeſs. I was ſtroaked twice by King *Charles* II. and thrice by King *James* II. It's incredible, to tell the great Quantities of *Purges*, *Vomits*, *Diet-Drinks*, *Lime-Waters*, *Millipedes*, *Rue-Whitlow-graſs*, and many other Things, not excepting *Mercurial* and *Antimonial* Remedies, which I have taken in my time; but nothing availed until it pleaſed God, by a wonderful Providence, to direct me to the Knowledge of this *Specifick*, which exceeded all my Hopes and Expectations.

And becauſe ſome have very high Thoughts of the two laſt-named Medicines, *viz. Mercurial* and *Antimonial*, it may not be improper to acquaint you that I made ſeveral Tryals thereof, but never reaped the leaſt Benefit or Advantage from the Uſe of either: I could perceive, indeed, this Difference, that each Kind acted with more or leſs Violence, according as they were impregnated with a greater or leſs Quantity of corroſive *Salts*; but in my Opinion the mildeſt of them is too ſtrong and virulent for Perſons afflicted with this Diſeaſe: At the beſt, I never found their Efficacy one Jot beyond what choice *Rhubarb* and *Sene* skilfully exhibited would perform: rather the latter according to my own Experience, anſwered the End and Deſign of Evacuation with much more Safety and Advantage. In one particular I was always very happy to reject a *Salivation*, a Remedy certainly worſe than the Diſeaſe.

For where it does not destroy Life, it entails so dismal a Train of Miseries, as a Man had better be buried alive than suffer. For my part, I should ever esteem that Man the best Physician who attends to all future Consequences; who, (as a certain Author saith) does not heal one Disease by procuring a worse, but restores such a Life as a Man can afterwards enjoy with Ease and Safety: Perhaps Craftsmen may not like these Reflections; but herein I act the Part of a Friend, which a wise Man accounts a very great Blessing, *A faithful Friend is the Medicine of Life, and he that fears the Lord shall find him.*

V. Dr. Morton of Consumptions, p. 46.

Reflections upon Learning, p. 222.

Ecclus. 6. 16.

Now in order to give you some Account of this Cure on my self; It providentially came into my Mind, to make Experiment of one single Remedy, believing, that Simplicity of *Medicine* might be as effectual, as that of *Diet*. The use whereof, first of all, I begun internally, with five or six Grains, Morning and Evening, in a Glass of Spring-Water; And for external Application, I us'd an *Ointment* and *Cerecloth*, made with the same Remedy. This Method I continued some time; but afterwards with much greater Advantage, I infused a certain Quantity of this *Specifick Remedy* in a Gallon of Spring-water, which, when it was fine and clear, became my constant Drink, absolutely abstaining from all other

other Liquors, except a Glaſs of Wine now and then, at Meals. By that time I had drunk of this *Specifick Water* 18 or 20 Days, I perceiv'd my Sores to run with a much greater Flux of Matter, than ever I knew them do before. Alſo ſeveral ſoul and rotten Bones, in ſeveral Joints, came forth, without any Pain or Trouble. And likewiſe, ſome hard and unulcerated Swellings aſſwaged, and went away with the like Eaſe. My Strength alſo increaſed conſiderably, and my uſual Pains (upon any ſudden Change of Weather) ceaſed, with ſuch a viſible Alteration throughout my whole Conſtitution, that, if I may ſo expreſs it, I thought my ſelf, in a manner, new created. *Its Effects.*

Two Things I obſerved very ſtrange and unaccountable: The Firſt was, That whereas my Sores, for the firſt Month or ſix Weeks, ran ſo exceſſively, that one would have thought it impoſſible to ſubſiſt under ſo great a Conſumption; yet my Strength increaſed the more; and by how much the more plentifully the Humour ſpent it ſelf this way, by ſo much the more hearty and ſtrong I perceiv'd my ſelf to grow. The other thing I obſerved, was, That my *Urine*, after ſome time taking of this *Specifick Remedy*, did become as thick and ropy, as tho' it had been blended with Whites of Eggs, or ſome ſuch-like viſcous Matter, which continu'd until all my Sores healed, as they did perfectly in about eight Months, or ſomething leſs, During which Courſe, *Two remarkable Symptoms.*

Courſe, I never found the leaſt Tendency or Diſpoſition unto Sickneſs, or any other Inconveniency whatſoever, attend the uſe of theſe Means, but ſuch a difference for Eaſe, that there was no Compariſon between this Method of Cure, and thoſe I had been formerly treated withal; ſo eaſy and pleaſant in its Operation, and withal ſo efficacious.

I think, it may from hence be concluded, in the general, that this Diſeaſe may be led, but not driven; and that the gentleſt Methods in any Man's Hands, will be always likely to prove the moſt ſucceſsful. Men may ſalivate and purge their Guts out, and not move it; and yet there may be ſome Simples and Methods of *Diet*, which will effectually remove it, with infinite leſs Trouble and Vexation, than what People commonly undergo in theſe Caſes. I can truly affirm, from my own Experience, the greater Violence I was treated withal by others, by ſo much the worſe it fared with me. The ſame, I very well remember, was the uſual Complaint of all my Fellow-Sufferers, whereof I had a great Acquaintance, who are long ſince expired, much the ſooner, I fear, for that very Reaſon.

Having thus ſet forth the Benefits I have experienced from this *Specifick Remedy*, it may be expected that I ſhould give ſome Account of the Nature and Quality thereof, by telling the World ſome pompous Stories of what Tribe it's deſcended, whether it be Animal, Mineral, or Vegetable; *Alkaly*, or *Acid*, or the like; but I ſee not what real Advantage this

this would be to the Afflicted. So long as the Thing is ſafe, and anſwers the End propos'd, it's no great matter whether the Patient know its proper Name or no. When it firſt came to my Knowledge, I muſt confeſs, I thought it very unlikely to be a Thing of ſuch ſurprizing Efficacy; and ſo fooliſh was I, like many others, as to deſpiſe it for ſome time, becauſe it was not recommended by ſome great Perſon, whoſe Name and Authority might encourage its Uſe. But, as I am now fully convinced of that Folly; ſo I am fully ſatisfy'd, (contrary to my former Opinions) that there is no *Poiſon* without its *Antidote*, nor any Diſeaſe without its *Specifick*; whereof Nature, more than Art, hath the greateſt Number and Advantage; inſomuch that if a Man were to write a Hiſtory of Cures, in all Diſeaſes, moſt of them, I believe, would be found accompliſh'd by ſome of the moſt ſimple and uncompounded *Remedies*; and moreover, that ſuch, for the moſt part, were diſcovered rather by Divine Revelation, Chance, or Accident, than by Rational Conjectures from Speculative Hypotheſes, or any other Philoſophick Methods. The *Indians*, who are perfect Strangers unto the Animal Oeconomy, having no other Knowledge of Phyſick and Surgery, than what the Light of Nature helpeth them to, cure all their Diſeaſes by the Application of their own *Roots* and *Plants*; being ſo perfectly skilled in the Virtues of Simples, that of ſome they prepare *Poiſons*, of others *Antidotes*. They cure Agues with the *Cortex*,

Piſo de Med. Braſ.

Cortex, and Venereal Diſtempers with *Guaicum*. And if from the Weſt we paſs to *China* in the Eaſt, their Knowledge and Practice in *Phyſick* extends no further than Methods of *Diet*, and the Virtues of Roots and Plants either inwardly taken or outwardly apply'd.

The old *Galeniſts*, who preſcrib'd Simples only, were as certain and ſucceſsful in their Cures, as our modern Phyſicians have been with all their Improvements. *Baglivi*, an Author of no mean Repute, ſaith, *That the* Empiricks, *who deſpiſed the Methods and Indications of the Rationaliſt, cured the moſt ſtubborn and grievous Diſeaſes, with the Uſe of* Specificks, *as they call them.* And in another place, ſaith the ſame Author, *This is evident, that both Acute and Chronical Diſeaſes will be happily cured by that Man, who by Chance, or a long train of Experience, hath found out a* Remedy *to cloak the Diſeaſe ſpecifically. It were, indeed, to be wiſhed,* ſaith our *Engliſh Hippocrates, That the Sick might arrive to Health, by a nearer Way,* viz. *by the help of* Specificks, *if any ſuch can be found: And he* (ſaith the Doctor) *may deſervedly be call'd a Phyſician, that hath ſuch a Medicine, which is able to deſtroy the Species of the Diſeaſe. And no doubt* (ſaith he) *but out of that abundant Plenitude, with which Nature overflows, there is ſufficient for the Cure of all thoſe Diſeaſes which afflict Mankind; and that, near at hand, in every Country. And therefore, it is much to be lamented, that the Nature of Plants*

Chap. 11.

Dr. Sydenham's *Preface.*

is

is no better known to us, which ſeem to be the chief-eſt Part of the Materia Medica, *and the likelieſt to afford ſuch Remedies.* Sir *William Temple* likewiſe, among his other uſeful and excellent Obſervations, hath this: *The great Defects in this excellent Science,* ſpeaking of Phyſick, *ſeem chiefly owing to the Profeſſors Application (eſpecially ſince* Galen's *time) running ſo much upon Method, and ſo little upon Medicine: And in this to have addicted themſelves ſo much to Compoſition, and neglected the Uſe of Simples, as well as the Enquiries and Records of Specifick Remedies.* Miſcell. 153.

Hippocrates very much depended on the Uſe of *Specificks*; declaring, That his own Experience of them, and that of his Predeceſſors, was ſufficient to recommend their Uſe, tho' he could give no rational Account of their Effects. *Galen* likewiſe relates ſeveral Cures done by ſome *Simples*, whereof he could give no Account of their Operation. And *Soleuander* ſays, He could tell what were the Diſeaſes of each Country, by the Herbs that were moſt common in it. As among the *Danes* and *Dutch*, with whom the *Scurvy* is very frequent, *Scurvy-graſs* groweth plentifully. The Honourable and Learned Mr. *Boyle* had ſo good an Opinion of the Excellency of *Specificks*, that he hath written a Diſcourſe of the Reconcileableneſs of *Specifick Remedies* to the Corpuſcular Philoſophy, to recommend their Uſefulneſs; well approved of among

Le Clerc's *Hiſt.*

Lib. 2.

the

the Ancients, though now rejected by ſome Moderns, through a vain Pretence to I know not what Philoſophy. If a Man knew but the Vertues of our own Native *Simples*, and could uſe them with that Simplicity as Nature yieldeth them, I know not but Men might thereby become as famous as the great *Hippocrates*, who ſtudied *Nature* more than *Art*; and thought it not below him to inform himſelf of Remedies from the meaneſt People when confirm'd by Experience. *If we conſider the Lucriferouſneſs of Things*, (ſaith our great Naturaliſt) *and their Medical Vertues, we ſhall find that we trample upon many things, for which we ſhould have cauſe to kneel and offer God Praiſes, if we knew all their Qualities and Uſes.* And ſecond to him, the Honourable Mr. *Boyle* hath, among his other excellent Diſcourſes, one Eſſay, to ſhew, *That there is ſcarce any thing in Nature, whereof the Uſes to humane Life are yet thoroughly underſtood.* And to the ſame Purpoſe ſpeaks *Paracelſus*, *There is nothing ſo Vile and Deſpicable, but what may conduce to the Uſe and Health of Man.* How many Cures (ſaith *Baglivi*) are brought to paſs, by thoſe contemptible Things, which, to our thinking, are uſeleſs, and unworthy our Notice; nay, oftentimes, according to our way of Reaſoning, directly oppoſite to the Nature of the Diſeaſe? Divers People, *ſaith he*, worn out with the long Tyranny of Diſeaſes, and the fruſtra-

Hipp. prec.

Lord Verulam.

Use of Nat. Exp. Philoſoph.

'fruſtraneous Uſe of all the known Methods 'and Remedies, have been happily recovered 'by ſome Medicines, whereunto Phyſicians 'and Surgeons have been perfect Strangers. Let this convince us of the Raſhneſs, if not Folly, of ſome Men, who abſolutely pronounce thoſe Diſeaſes incurable, wherein themſelves have not ſucceeded; and decry all other Means as uſeleſs and dangerous, whereof themſelves are not the ſole Proprietors. This Partiallity and Selfiſhneſs, I reckon among thoſe numerous Hindrances obſtructing the Improvement of Phyſick; and in this reſpect particularly, that hereby many a good Medicine, (brought to Light by Experience, or Chance, which might be of great Uſe and Service to the Publick) is deſignedly cried down for that very Reaſon. But to return to our Author: 'It's not alto-'gether much Learning, *(ſaith he)* but certain 'and demonſtrative Knowledge, raiſed from 'Experience, that will do our Buſineſs. We 'muſt not diſpute, but try what Nature yieldeth 'for the Good of Mankind; and what we 'cannot reach by Speculation, we muſt not 'preſently brand for Impoſſibility in Nature, 'and reproach her with the Infirmity of our 'Art. We muſt bend our Thoughts, with all 'Diligence and Conſtancy, to diſcloſe new 'Medicines and Methods for curing thoſe Diſ-'eaſes we call incurable. For tho' ſome of 'them are in Effect incurable; yet the greateſt 'Part of them are only ſuch, not from the 'Impoſſibility of the Thing, but from our 'Weakneſs. In fine, *(ſaith he)* we ought to

'make it our earneſt Buſineſs, to find out *Specifick Remedies*, that whereſoever this Science 'is Weak in Theory, ſuch may keep up its 'Majeſty and Weight. And doubtleſs, nothing can conduce more to the Health of Mankind, than Phyſicians applying themſelves to ſearch out ſuch Remedies, which, by divine Appointment, are Specificated to every Diſtemper; whereof (it's not unreaſonable to think) infinite Goodneſs in Commiſeration to our manifold Infirmities, hath provided as great a Variety, as there are Diſeaſes incident to Mankind. But ſo ſcanty is our Knowledge, that *maxima pars eorum quæ ſcimus, eſt minima pars eorum quæ neſcimus.* We may truly ſay of Vegetables, what the Queen of *Sheba* once ſaid of *Solomon*'s Wiſdom and Magnificence, *the half of them hath not been declar'd or reveal'd to us.* Nay, ſuch is our Misfortune, in this reſpect, that the Vertues of thoſe Roots and Plants already known, and which might be of great Service are loſt and deſtroyed by Heterogeneous Mixtures, whereof *Galen*, in his Time, makes a grievous Complaint, as a principal thing, whereby the practical Knowledge of the *Materia Medica* was greatly obſtructed.

Galen de Medicamentorum Compoſitione, Lib. 1.

Scribonius Largus, who flouriſhed in the Times of the Emperors *Tiberius* and *Claudius*, preferr'd *Simple Medicaments* before Compounds. And *Octavianus Horatianus*, under *Valentinian* the

In Epiſt. ad lib. de Compoſ. Medic. lib. 1. *c.* 1. *Rerum Medic. lib.* 1. *c.* 1.

the Emperor, condemn'd both Compounds and all foreign Remedies; maintaining, that in *every Country* Nature had provided a Sufficiency of *Simples*, to answer all Indications, and for every *Age*, *Diſeaſe*, and *Occaſion* whatſoever. *Pliny*, a moſt eminent Naturaliſt, is very importunate for the Uſe of ſimple Remedies; As alſo *Paulus Ægineta*, *Aetius*, and other Authors.

During the Reign of the *Yncas* in *Peru*, (one of the moſt conſiderable Conſtitutions of abſolute Monarchy in the World) no Compoſitions were allow'd in point of Medicine, but only Simples proper to each Diſeaſe. And to come to our own Times, and our own Country, *Helmont*, tho' no great Friend to *Galenical* Medicines, yet *Credo* (ſaith he) *Simplicia, in ſua ſimplicitate eſſe ſufficientia pro ſanatione omnium morborum.* The greateſt Cures (ſaith Dr. *Baynard*) that ever I have done in my Life-time (and I thank God I have had as good Succeſs as any of my Neighbours) I have done by *Simples*. The ſame I find atteſted in the Writings of divers other eminent modern Phyſicians. How fatal and miſchievous is the Small-pox to moſt People in this Kingdom! and yet I know a certain Plant, the Infuſion whereof taken liberally in common Drink, hath often prov'd an admirable Remedy to prevent all thoſe dangerous Symptoms uſually attending that Diſeaſe.

The uſual Practice in curing this Diſeaſe, I have obſerv'd to run in a manner chiefly upon Evacuation, with the Uſe of the Decoction of the Woods, and ſome other Simples;

ples; which Medicines are ſo generally known and fix'd, that if 500 People were afflicted with this Diſtemper, and as many Phyſicians conſulted, a Man might not only pretty nearly gueſs, what each of them would preſcribe; but alſo, what Effects each Perſon might expect from their Preſcriptions. But now, as this my *Specifick* Remedy is new and uncommon, ſo likewiſe are its Operations different from any Medicines I ever yet knew or heard of. For, no ſooner is this Remedy incorporated with the whole Maſs of Blood, but the ſcrophulous Ulcers open like ſo many Flood-Gates, pouring out the Humour, with a mighty Current, which, to every body's thinking, ſhould rather waſte and conſume the Body, than encreaſe its Strength and Vigour. But, on the contrary, by how much the more plentifully the Humour ſpends it ſelf this way, by ſo much the more hearty and ſtrong do People grow: Experience fairly intimating this to be the moſt proper Means to perform a Cure; becauſe this viſcous and ſtubborn Humour, which will not yield to other Evacuations, tho' never ſo ſtrong, is hereby thrown out, the Way which Nature indicates to diſburden her ſelf. This paſs'd for a Maxim with *Hippocrates*; *Thoſe things* (ſaith he) *which are to be carried off, are to be drawn whither they moſt incline, through ſuch Ways and Places, as are fitteſt for Conveyance and Expulſion.* And methinks, it ſhould eaſily be allowed, that to promote a regular *Secretion* of the Morbifick Matter in thoſe Places where Na-

Aphor. 21.

ture

ture hath determin'd to empty her ſelf, is the moſt rational and ſafeſt Method for Eradicating of this Diſeaſe, tho' ſometimes with ſome People, this *Specifick* Remedy will precipitate this Humour, and bring it away by *Urine* alſo. Which, as the divine *Hippocrates* hath elſewhere obſerv'd, is a good Sign of a ſucceeding Cure.

Wiſe Phyſicians (ſaith the Lord *Bacon*) ſhould, with all Diligence enquire what Remedies Nature yieldeth; having extreme ſubtle Parts, without any *Mordication* or *Acrimony*; for they (ſaith he) undermine that which is *hard*, they open that which is *ſtopp'd* and *ſhut*, and they expel that which is offenſive gently, without too much *Perturbation*. And the ingenious Dr. *Tho. Fuller* ſaith, that *Specificks* are found, by Experience, to have Reſpect to one part more than another; that a Medicine may ſtrike a particular Impreſſion on one Humour, and not touch another: Whereof the Doctor gives us many Inſtances. And, indeed, the Suffrages of all our eminent Phyſicians and Naturaliſts do agree, that Remedies might be found to act more directly upon ſome particular Parts and Humours, than upon others: Which, as the Lord *Bacon* truly obſerves, is the Cauſe *why Empericks and old Women are more happy, many times, in their Cures, than Learned Phyſicians; becauſe they are faithful and ſteady to thoſe approv'd Medicines, which they*

Nat. Hiſt. p. 168. *Exper.* 692.

Phar. Extemp. p. 88.

Advancement of Learning, *p.* 196.

have found out for particular Diseases; and therefore, saith he, it would be matter of good Consequence, if some Physicians of Note for Learning and Practice, would compile a Work of *Probations, and experimental Medicines for the Cure of particular Diseases*. The Ancient Botanists have computed the numbers of their Medicinal *Roots* and *Plants* to amount to 6000, since whose Time a great many other Discoveries have been made in the Vegetable Kingdom by our modern *Herbalists*, tho' no Man ever yet attained to a perfect Knowledge in those things but *Solomon*, who is said in Scripture *to speak of Trees from the Cedar-tree that is in* Lebanon, *even to the Hyssop that springeth out of the Wall*: but now, in the common Practice, those Simple Remedies which by a *Specifical* Propriety respect the Cures of particular Diseases, are very few; nay, in a manner, quite lost. Men of late Years deducing the Causes of all Distempers from those Two giddy Notions of *Alkaly and Acid*, have put their Indications of curing all Distempers upon that Foot, tho' at the same time, they are wholly ignorant what *Acid* produceth any Disease, or what *Alkaly* removes it. *Pliny* says, we are ignorant of what we live upon, but, in my Opinion, we are less acquainted with that which makes us sick. Daily Experience convinceth us, that our Constitutions are injur'd by a thousand things which are neither *Acid* nor *Alkaly*, nor any thing like them; And, on the contrary, that many Distempers are cur'd by those very things, which,

1 Kings 4. 33.

which, according to our Reaſon and Way of thinking, are directly oppoſite to the very Nature of the Diſeaſe: *We ſee Contraries often prove Remedies to one another in the Juices, and Poiſons become beneficial, when oppos'd to certain Humours; the World has, lately, had full Evidence of the Good Effects of an intenſe Cold, equally apply'd to all the Parts of the Body, at once; which Method of Curing, ſome Years ago, was thought very extravagant, and certainly deſtructive.* Dr. Fuller Med. Gymnaſtica.

The Honourable Mr. *Boyle* hath long ſince prov'd by many chymical Experiments, that there is nothing of *Acid* in human Blood, and the ingenious Dr. *Pitcarne* has likewiſe demonſtrated that *acid Subſtances* of Vegetables taken into the Stomach are turn'd into *Alkalious*: And accordingly, ſome Phyſicians have as ſtrongly maintain'd that this Diſeaſe cometh from *Alkalious Lixivious Salts*, in the Blood, as others have done from Acids: for my Part, I ſhall never trouble my ſelf much about the Cauſe, what it is, or from whence it comes, ſo long as God hath enabled me to remove it; and I very well remember that when I applied my ſelf to others for Cure, they of all Men had the worſt Succeſs in their Practice upon me, who profeſſed to have a clear and perfect Knowledge of its *Origin*: their fine Reaſonings, and nice Speculations, after a long Courſe of painful *Anatomy of Human Blood.* V. *Diſſertatio de Opera quam præſtant corpora Acida vel Alkalia in curatione morborum.*

ful Experiments, ended only in grievous Diſappointments. Diſeaſes are of that hidden and abſtruſe Nature, working out their Effects by ſuch ſecret Ways, and ſo remote from human View, that in moſt Caſes the moſt learned Phyſicians have not been able to determine the immediate Cauſe with that Certainty, but that others have as ſtrenuouſly oppoſed it: In this Diſeaſe, particularly, I believe I could cite twenty different Opinions, out of Authors, each of them peremptorily aſſerting the Cauſe and the Cure from their own *Hypotheſes*. And I once knew a young Gentleman with a Swelling under his right Jaw, who miſerably expired before the Phyſicians could agree among themſelves whether the Tumour was ſcrophulous or not.

But notwithſtanding Authors are much divided about the Matter whereof this evil Humour is generated, yet they are all unanimous in this Particular; that its Malignancy, whatever it be, is ſeated in the Blood and Juices: But if any Regard may be had to the Opinion of a wiſe and great Man, he tells us that in the Difference of Parts there are often found *Cauſes continent of many Diſeaſes*; which Phyſicians not obſerving, *do ſometimes accuſe the Humours* wrongfully, *which are not delinquent, the Fault being in the very mechanick Frame of the part.* When I labour'd under this Diſeaſe to ſuch a Degree that our Hoſpitals could hardly produce ſuch another deplorable Inſtance; even in thoſe Days, upon opening a Vein (as I frequently did) the ſoundeſt Man could not produce purer and finer

Lord Bacon.

ner Blood than mine was. And whereas its ge-
erally thought that Children have this Diſtem-
r only by Inheritance: I have known many
flicted therewith, where no *Hereditary Con-*
gion could reaſonably be ſuppos'd. And ma-
y grown Perſons do acquire the *Kings-Evil* by
ternal Accidents, *viz. Blows, Bruiſes, Com-*
eſſions, Wrenches of the Hip, Knee, Ancle and
any other Joints, in whom there was never any
ch thing as a *Corroſive Acidity* in the firſt *Di-*
ſtion, nor any thing like it elſewhere. I have
en a Woman with two of theſe ſtrumous Swel-
ngs, the Bigneſs of a Turkey's Egg, as hard as
lints, under her Jaws, who ſolemnly proteſted
me, that both thoſe Swellings came in a
ight's Time, that when ſhe went to Bed ſhe
as as free of them as any Woman living. In
y Opinion, ſome other *Agents* muſt be acceſſa-
y to the Formation of theſe ſcrophulous Tu-
ours, beſides Blood and Juices. And why may
e not think that the Animal Spirits, (tho' we
now not how to define them; and whereof
ttle Notice is taken by Phyſicians) if embar-
aſs'd, or pent up, may produce Putrefactions
n the Parts: and if ſo, till ſuch Time as
heir good and bad Effects are throughly known,
which perhaps they never will, there will be
ne fundamental Deficiency in Phyſick. *Sola*
emedia ſanant, ſaid good old *Celſus*: One good
Remedy is preferable to all the Hypotheſes and
lauſible Conjectures in the World. And
herefore, what Sir *Robert Tabor* ſaid to the
French King's Phyſicians, when, in a ſcoffing
manner, they demanded of him what was the

Cauſe

Cauſe of a Fever, I think was very ingenious, and more to the Purpoſe than any other Anſwer whatſoever: *A Fever* (quoth he) *is a Diſeaſe you do not know how to cure, but I do.* Provided we know People's Tempers and Conſtitutions, and thoſe good and bad Symptoms peculiarly incident to each Diſtemper, as alſo which of the *Non-naturals* do us good, and which of them do injury, and have but proper Remedies to apply, we need not, I think, buſie our ſelves much about *Secret Cauſes.* But to proceed.

After I had fully experienced the Excellency and Uſefulneſs of this Medicine, in my own Caſe; I thought my ſelf obliged, in point of *Charity*, to make it publick; that others, if they pleas'd, might reap the ſame Benefit by it, as, bleſſed be God, I had done. And tho' I do not pretend to make any new Diſcoveries concerning the Cauſe or Production of this Diſeaſe; yet, I conceive I have ſome reaſon to eſteem my ſelf capable of helping thoſe who at any time ſhall deſire my Aſſiſtance. For, beſides the Knowledge (which God hath bleſſed me with) of this *Specifick Remedy*, I have likewiſe gain'd ſome other Skill from my paſt Sufferings, which I reckon may be very conducive to the Cure of this Diſtemper. I hope, for inſtance, I am able to give a ſatisfactory Account, what Tumours are ſcrophulous, and what are not. I know as well the Temper and Conſtitution of People afflicted with the *Evil* as I did my own, and can eaſily tell when they will ſuffer Pain, and when not; when their Sores will run little or much; at what Seaſons their Swellings will

riſe

ise or fall; and when they will break; and the like. Of these things I have given a satisfactory Account, as divers People will bear me witness. Physick (as a certain Author hath long since observed) doth always profess to have Experience for the Proof of its Operations. And it was *Plato*'s Opinion, that in order to be a true Physician, a Man should first suffer all those Diseases he pretended to cure, and pass thro' all those Accidents and Circumstances he was to judge of in others, This, I must confess, is a severe Position; and if no Man were to practice but upon these Conditions, I fancy Physick would have but few Professors; tho', doubtless, the best Knowledge is ever gain'd by a Man's own Experience and Observation, which, as *Celsus* observes, *is the principal Thing to inform Men in a right Method of Cure.*

Montagne's *Essays.*

Aphr. 10. Sect. 9.

Diet is another thing from whence my self received considerable Benefit. A Part of Physick of that Importance, that *Hippocrates*, and all other Physicians, do testifie a very great Regard unto it, as a principal thing conducive to the Cure of most Diseases. And herein I think my self not unqualified, to give those necessary Directions, which, if observ'd, would prove of very great Use and Service to Persons afflicted with this *Evil Humour*: Good Management in this respect,

The Usefulness of Diet.

Hipp. de Diæta.

I find, (tho' it will not abſolutely cure this Diſ
eaſe) is highly Uſeful, and very Efficacious
to aid and aſſiſt, and to give an Energy to the
Operation of proper Medicines. One thing
more, which, by my own Experience, I found
to have a commanding Power in this Diſtem
per, in giving Pain or Eaſe, in
And of Air. the Quality or Diſpoſition of the
Air: Wherein I was ſo critical
in my Obſervations, that upon the leaſt Turn
or Change of the Weather, I knew as well what I
was to expect, as if a Meſſenger before-hand had
given me Warning. And whoſoever under-
takes the curing of this Diſeaſe, will find ſuch
Natural Obſervations of great Uſe, not only to
direct him in the Cure, but alſo to prevent Per-
turbations of Mind, in thoſe who labour under
this Diſtemper, ariſing from its Ebbings and
Flowings, which, indeed, are very ſudden and
ſurprizing. If any one thinks theſe and ſuch-
like Obſervations are Trifles, let him enjoy his
Opinion: In the mean time, it's my Judgment,
whoever careleſly neglects theſe things, will have
no great Succeſs with this Diſtemper. The di-
vine *Hippocrates* hath in ſeveral of his Aphoriſms,
fully ſhewed the Uſefulneſs of ſuch Obſerva-
tions, to direct Men in their Methods of curing
Diſeaſes. And the ingenious Dr. *Wainewright*,
in his Book of *Non-Naturals*, hath clearly de-
monſtrated what great Altera-
P. 65. tions are made in our Bodies, ac-
cording to the various Changes
of the *Air*; affirming that from ſuch Notices,
better Indications may be taken both for the
Pre-

revention and Cure of moſt Diſeaſes, than om any other *Source* whatſoever. *The Ani-al Oeconomy*, (ſaith a late inge-ious Author, with great Truth) *it ſelf a conſiderable Part of Natural Philoſophy, and our Bo-ies are ſo ſtrongly influenc'd by Variety of* Diets, *and ſo many other things with-ut, that, indeed, the whole Study of Nature ſeems be uſeful to him that would underſtand it.* *Dr.* Keil *of Animal Secretion.*

Herodotus, an antient Author, tells us, that in *Egypt* Phyſicians were obliged to apply them-elves to the Study and Improvement of ut ſome one Diſeaſe. *Every Phyſician*, ſaith he, *hath one Diſeaſe for his Province, and no more*, &c. The Deſign whereof, Lib. 2. Sect. 82. oubtleſs, was very good, and of great uſe to he Republick of Phyſick: Becauſe hereby Phy-icians acquir'd a more certain and perfect nowledge of the Nature and Diſpoſition of articular Diſeaſes, and of things hurtful and eneficial in each Diſtemper; and, conſequent-y, were better able to fence againſt all ill Acci-ents and Revolutions ariſing from the various hanges of the Weather, or improper Diets, nd many evil Habits, whereunto each Diſeaſe ath a direct Tendency. The Works of thoſe ery great Men, Dr. *Sydenham* and Dr. *R. Mor-on*, are undeniable Inſtances of the Advanta-es the World might enjoy from the Phyſician's ore eſpecial Application of his Thoughts and tudies to the Nature and Cure of ſome one articular Diſeaſe. The noble Improvements

they arrived at in this Way, the one with respect of *Fevers*, and the other of *Consumptions*, makes one justly wonder, among so many Ingenious and Learned Men of that Profession, there have been so few who have attempted to follow their Steps in other Cases.

As I judged these no improper Qualifications for one who undertook to help others, so, blessed be God, I have met with an answerable Success. As I treat others as I did my self, so I find the very same common Effects. Their Sores run with the same Flux of Matter upon taking this *Specifick Remedy*, as mine did. I have a Box of Scales and foul Bones, the largest that ever were seen, driven out by this Anti-Strumatick Liquor. Their *Urine* likewise I have frequently observed as thick and ropy as my own used to be; and tho' they were never so Weak and Lame, yet I always find their Strength daily increasing, as mine did: Neither did I ever know this Humour break out afresh upon any Person cur'd by this Method, no more than it hath done with me these 20 Years past; the Truth whereof I can make appear by a Cloud of Witnesses, from their own Experience.

The same Effects generally common to all other People.

So far as I am able to judge from the large Experience I have had, first on my self, and now upon others, one of the greatest Difficulties in making a compleat Cure of this Distemper in most People, with this Method, is Length of Time, which many have not Patience to submit unto, not considering the Stubbornness

of

f this Diſeaſe, above all others; that Nature eing brought very low, and worn out, in a anner, with the long Duration of the Illneſs, gether with the emaciating Methods in comon uſe, cannot ſo ſoon accompliſh the Conoction and Deſpumation of the Morbifick Matter, as they could wiſh: This tempts them o try other Medicines, but with ſo little Advanage, that they oftentimes run themſelves into reater Evils; according to that Obſervation, ong ſince deliver'd by the Lord *Bacon, That as Variety of Medicines is the Off-ſpring of Ignorance, ſo many Medicines have cauſed few Cures.* To which Obſervation, I may add another of equal Truth, that the moſt authentick Evidences of a Man curing this or any other Diſeaſe, are not ſufficient to ſatisfy ſome People prepoſſeſs'd with Prejudices; ſo that if a Man were morally certain of curing any one Diſtemper, yet he would find it a difficult Point to convince ſome, tho' he produc'd an hundred Inſtances of his Succeſs. And the reaſon may be this, becauſe Phyſicians, and thoſe depending on them, have in all places ſo bitterly run down Perſons and Things excluſive of their own Knowledge and Practice, that People think there's no *Balm in Gilead* but what's in their Hands. And yet Phyſicians have acknowledg'd that the *Art* of Healing was originally derived from ſuch Experiments as were not all made by Phyſicians. Nay ſometimes (ſay they) the Fowls of the *Air*

Natur. Hiſt. of Life and Death.

Hiſt. of Phyſ. p. 4.

and the Beasts of the Field, have by the Exercise of their natural Instincts directed considering Men to such Medicines, as without such Indications perhaps their Reason and Skill would never have brought to light. Nor is it *Physick* alone, but many other *Arts* and *Sciences*, that have received considerable Improvements from such who were not directly Professors thereof; so that I think there is no reason to charge my Pretensions with Novelty or Singularity, unless I were of the number of those vain-glorious Boasters, who assume all Knowledge to themselves, asserting nothing less than perfect and absolute Cures in all cases whatsoever. But this I utterly disclaim, and should be asham'd of; very well remembring, that when I was seeking Help for my self, I never met with greater Disappointments, than from infallible Pretenders. Such Persons who offer perfect and infallible Cures, would do well to consider the Modesty of that Ingenious and Learned Artist, Mr. Serjeant *Wiseman*, who, perhaps, knew as much of this Disease, and likewise took as much Pains to bring the Cure thereof to some Perfection, as any Man whatever, either before or since his Time; yet he, like an honest Man, after Thirty or Forty Years Practice, hath declar'd, that the *Contumaciousness of this Disease had not only eluded his best Care and Industry, but also some of the ablest Physicians and Surgeons in his time.* Even *Hyppocrates* himself was so far from pretending to Perfection or Infallibility in his Art, that he begins his Apho-

Lib. 4. *p.* 239.

phoriſms with theſe modeſt Maxims: *Life is ort, the Art long, Occaſion ſudden, to make Exriments dangerous, Judgment difficult*, &c. nd accordingly he hath left it as a Precept to ſ his Followers, that they ought not to warnt the Succeſs of a Medicine, becauſe, ſaith e, the *minuteſt Circumſtance may cauſe a Diſtemr to vary, and conſequently to become much more dious and dangerous than Men expected.* In ny own Experience I have known one of theſe crophulous Sores not exceeding the compaſs of Silver Penny, longer and more vexatious in the ure than an old inveterate Ulcer, the breadth f an Hand; in which caſes it ſometimes faleth out that a trifling Accident puts a Period o Life, where there have been very promiſing Hopes and Expectations of Succeſs. It's therefore in my opinion too great a Preſumption to all any Method or Medicine a Perfect or Abſolute Cure for any Diſtemper whatſoever, beauſe the beſt approved Judgment and Practice loth ſometimes meet with Defeats. The Monument in *Weſtminſter Abby* of the Young Lady holding up her Finger prickt with a Needle, whereof ſhe died, is a convincing inſtance that trifling Accidents may prove mortal. Such alſo was the Misfortune of a young Gentleman this laſt Summer, who riding gently on the Road ſtroaking the Buſhes with his Hand, run a Thorn into one of his Fingers, whereby he bled to death in a very few Days, notwithſtanding he had the beſt Help and Aſſiſtance to ſave his Life that Money or Friends could procure. How many of thoſe

ſort of Men, who make great Pretenſions to perfect and abſolute Cures, did the Honourable Mr. *Herbert*, the Duke of *Leed*'s Grandſon; and likewiſe Mr. *James Boddington*, an eminent *Turkey* Merchant's Son in *Little St. Hellens*, make trial of, when both of them miſerably expir'd this laſt Summer in defiance to their infallible *Secrets*. My Pretenſions only are, that whereas I had this Diſtemper in a very high Degree, and have, with God's Bleſſing, been my ſelf cured by this Remedy; proving the ſame alſo upon others with undeniable Succeſs; I ſhall only honeſtly apply the ſame Means to any Perſon, leaving the Succeſs to Almighty God. With this farther Teſtimony for all Peoples Satisfaction, that if this *Specifick Remedy* ſhould not cure them, it will do them no hurt. Not one of thoſe many Hundreds that have taken of it having ever complain'd of the leaſt Injury attending its Uſe.

Thus, Sir, I have given you a ſhort Account of what I have done for my ſelf with this *Specifick Remedy*, and likewiſe how ſucceſsful others have found it. I confeſs, when I reſolv'd, firſt of all, to make it known unto the World, I found ſome difficulty to perſuade my ſelf to yield to its Publication in the Prints; but as I ſaw that was in a manner neceſſary, ſo I have this Comfort and Satisfaction againſt all Cenſures and Reflections upon that account; that, by ſo doing I have had the Opportunity of curing ſome Scores of People, who might have rotted alive, had it not been for thoſe Advertiſements. Some, I am ſure, who once thought

ought me unworthy of their Notice, have by
t Means, ſought my Aſſiſtance, and found
effectual. And tho' this Way of publiſhing
edicines and Cures, is now eſteemed *Quack-*
, yet by the Hiſtory of Phyſick, it appears,
the Ancients could have had the ſame Conve-
ence they would have done the
e: *For, whoſoever had gain'd* *Lib. 2. 6.*
y Experience on himſelf or others,
ith *Herodotus, made it publick.* And again,
was the Cuſtom, ſaith the ſame Author, *to*
rry their Sick and Diſeaſed into the Markets,
at all People, paſſing by, might give their Ad-
ice, and encourage others to try what themſelves
d others had, in the like Caſe, uſed with Succeſs.
t whatever may be thought of this, ſurely a
eſign ſo compaſſionate, as to deliver Mankind
m one of the greateſt corporal Evils that can
fall them, needs no Apology, nor Excuſe;
r this, I have the Senſe of the ingenious
r. *Wainewright*, in his Treatiſe of *Non Natu-*
ls. To attempt any thing, ſaith he, *for the Im-*
rovement of uſeful Arts, eſpecially, that of Me-
icine, which is of the greateſt Benefit to Mankind,
a Debt which every capable Perſon owes to the
ublick. I hope no good Man will revile me
en upon this Account: And, as for others,
's to me no great matter, what they ſay!
ucceſs ſurmounteth all Difficulties, and the
ittereſt Invectives that Malice or Envy can
ggeſt, will, in the End, avail nothing, where
Man's Succeſs becomes indiſputable. I know,
ndeed, from my own Experience, that ſome
re of that venemous Temper, that where Mat-

ters

ters of Fact are as clear as the Sun at Noon-day; where no Provocation, nor the leaſt Cauſe of Offence is given, yet they will not forbear poiſoning the Minds of People with baſe and unworthy Inſinuations. But I look upon ſuch Efforts to proceed from ſome inward Convictions they have, that it's eaſier for them to attempt the ſupporting their own Credit and Eſteem, by leſſening of mine, than by any real Worth or Merit of their own: So that to paſs by their foul-mouth'd Envy, I'll only beg your Patience, while I gratifie two or three of them ſo far, as to take ſome Notice of their Objections.

V.D.Turner's remarkable Caſe in Surgery.

One thinks to ſlur this my *Specifick*, by exclaiming againſt all Medicines of that Nature; ſtyling them *Subterfuges* of Ignorance, *&c.* I leave him to the Mercy of the whole College, who muſt either pronounce him a meer *Ignoramus*, or elſe diſclaim the *Jeſuits Bark*, and all other *Specificks*. It's natural for mean and abject Spirits to envy other Men's Proſperity and Succeſs. And therefore, to uſe his own Expreſſion, I ſhall not confute him *any other Way, than by (what he really deſerves) Slight and Contempt.* Another inſinuates, that I am no Surgeon, *therefore how I ſhould do any Good upon ſo unaccountable a Malady, is what he does not underſtand, and wonders at.* Now, it's natural to expect, that the leaſt Underſtanders ſhould be the greateſt Wonderers. If this Man's Underſtanding be ſhort, that's

Ferne's *Preface to the* King's Evil *perfectly cur'd.*

that not my Fault: However for once, I'll do him the Favour to ſhew him that he underſtands more than he is aware of; provided he underſtands what is to be found Page the 20th of the Book ſet out in his Name; for if it be true, that "*what Artiſt ſoever can perfectly rectify the* "*vicious Acidity of the firſt Digeſtion, muſt neceſſa-* "*rily cure this Diſtemper, in Courſe; and as na-* "*turally accompliſh the Work, and with as much* "*Truth too, as it is to take away the Effects by* "*removing the Cauſe*; I think he muſt underſtand, (I am ſure every body elſe will) that there is not, then, any abſolute Neceſſity of *manual Operation.*

If I thought this doughty Author knew any thing of Mr. *Boyle*, I could tell him, that it was that Gentleman's Opinion, that inward Remedies might be found out able to effect Chirurgical Cures; whereof he hath given us many extraordinary Inſtances in divers Caſes. And I could likewiſe refer him to the learned *Bartholinus*'s Obſervations, who, tho' a Surgeon, is yet on my Side: As alſo, to the learned and ingenious *Paul Barbette*, M.D. who declares *this Diſtemper curable by internal Remedies that have appropriated Qualities for curing the King's Evil.* *I remember* (ſaith *Gulielmus Piſo*, in his Account of thoſe great things which he ſaw done in Surgery by the Illiterate *Indians*) *that the Limbs of* Dutch *and* Portugal *Soldiers wounded with Gunſhot, were happily cured with their recent Juices, Gums and Balſams, without Knife or Cauteries.* But few People apply themſelves to me, who have

Pag. 114.

have not undergone all those Chirurgical Operations applicable in this Diſeaſe, twice or thrice over; ſo that what Reaſon have I to trouble them afreſh with thoſe things, wherein they have, for many Years, found ſo little Benefit; and eſpecially ſo long as I am able to do the Buſineſs by gentler Methods? For the Truth whereof, I appeal to ſome of Mr. *Ferne*'s own Patients, at this time, under my Care; and to others of them long ſince cured by me. For my Part, I reckon it a great Happineſs, that, in this Caſe, I can help others, without inflicting thoſe Torments of cutting, cauterizing, and the like: The Conſequences whereof, one of the greateſt Surgeons we have had, long ſince declar'd, were more fatal and dangerous than the Diſeaſe itſelf. I ſpeak not this to prejudice People in other Caſes againſt Surgery, but in this, I never knew manual Operation do any Service. But I will, for the preſent, diſmiſs this Man, after I have noted one Diſcovery that he hath obliged the World with, well-worthy himſelf: It is in his firſt Chapter, where, in his learned Account of the *Greek* and *Latin* Names of this Diſeaſe, and their Etymology, *p.* 6. he ſlides in this curious Remark, that a *Little Pig cometh of an Old Sow.* Now, that a Pig cometh of a Sow, moſt People know; but that it muſt be from an *Old* Sow, is what neither the Etymology of the Word, nor the Nature of the Thing, requires. For the firſt, *Goldman*'s Dictionary, if he knows ſuch a Book, would have given ſufficient Satisfaction. As for the latter, how unskilful ſoever

ver old Wives may be in Medicine, yet I doubt not but they could have ſet him right in this *Phænomenon*. Tho' this Man deſpiſeth *Old Wives Medicines*, I can aſſure him the famous Doctor *Willis* thought himſelf beholden to an old Woman for curing him of a violent Bleeding at the Noſe, which, at times, had troubled him many Years, whereof he could never free himſelf; until ſhe, accidentally coming into the Room where he was bleeding, told him the Medicine; which, to my Remembrance, was one ſingle Plant. But to paſs by this Man's Contempt of old Wives Medicines; I wonder, the Reverend Mr. *Gaynam*, a Schoolmaſter, was not more correct in this Author's Orthography, than to ſuffer him to print *Alcalious* for *Alkalious Medicines*. Surely, neither of them very well underſtood the Derivation of the Word *Alkaly*, which, in Chymiſtry, ſignifies a fixed Salt taken from the Herb *Kali*. *Pref.*

The laſt Perſon to whom I muſt pay my Obligations, is, indeed, a Man of Learning and Judgment; and he thinks, it's Objection enough that I am a *Quack*.

I do not know what Provocation I have given him, (unleſs that I cured one of his Patients almoſt blind of both Eyes, with the *Evil*) and, therefore, as he is a Man of Abilities, I would beg the Favour of him, that, at his leiſure, he would oblige the World with a Diſquiſition, whether the Foundation of Phyſick was not firſt laid in *Empericiſm*. I know, indeed, the Rationaliſts have, at all Adventures, charg'd the

the Emperical Tribe with Ignorance, Unskilfulneſs, and the like: But yet, with me, it ſeems a Queſtion, whether it be not manifeſt, that more uſeful Remedies have been brought to Light by them, than all the Productions of Learning and Philoſophy amount unto. Excepting ſome Chymical Remedies, the whole Body of the *Materia Medica*, now in uſe, is chiefly owing to *Empericiſm*: And if we enquire into the *Art* of Healing by *Surgery*, we ſhall find moſt of their topical Remedies introduc'd by the very ſame Men. As an unqueſtionable Proof of theſe things, let any one compare all thoſe *Recipes*, Simple and Compound, which the celebrated Authors of this Age have publiſh'd as the Fruits of their own Inventions, with the old (tho' illiterate) Writers of *Pharmacy* and *Surgery*, and he will be convinced that the Labours of the one are manifeſt Tranſcriptions of the other. The Rationaliſts (as they ſtile themſelves by way of Eminency and Diſtinction) have, indeed, varniſhed their *Plagiaries*, with many cunningly deviſed Hypotheſes and Speculations (which have chang'd like our Faſhions) but they have not found out, by their own Art, any one Remedy, for the Cure of any particular Diſtemper, but what was very well known to the World long before their Days. *Celſus*, a Wiſe Man, as well as a Phyſician, (ſpeaking of the Emperical Sects of Phyſicians) hath, long ſince acknowledg'd, *that Medicines and Cures were firſt found out, and afterwards the Reaſons and Cauſes diſcover'd: not the other Way, that the Cauſes*

De re medica.

Cauſes firſt extracted from the Nature of Things, gave Light to the Invention of Remedies. Much to the ſame Purpoſe, ſpeaketh that excellent Phyſician, Doctor *Thomas Fuller*; *It was not ſpeculative Philoſophy, and fine ſpun Hypotheſes, but Experience and Obſervation that taught us the Uſe of Remedies.* The Honourable Eſquire *Boyle* frankly acknowledgeth, that in all thoſe Places where there is leaſt Learning, there the moſt and beſt *Specificks* have been found out, becauſe (ſaith he) ſuch Perſons having no other Knowledge of Medicine, than what the Light of Nature helpeth them to, have, thereby, brought to Light ſeveral Remedies, which Nations of greater Learning and Politeneſs are wholly ignorant of. The Men of Medicine in the *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies*, are meer *Quacks*, to be ſure, to our *Engliſh* Phyſicians. And yet *Linchoten* for the one, and *Lawſon* for the other, aſſures us, that they not only cure their own Country-men but ours too. Now to take no more than theſe Premiſſes; I think there ſeems ſome Reaſon to infer from them, that extraordinary Remedies are not always (if they are ever) the Fruits and Effects of extraordinary Learning, much leſs of being Graduated in a Profeſſion. And therefore, till this Matter is better clear'd up, I cannot be of Opinion, that a Man's being call'd a *Quack* by a *M. D.* is a juſt Objection againſt his Ability of Curing any particular Diſtemper. The Honourable Eſquire *Boyle*, the Reverend Mr. *John Ray*, and ſome others, tho' no

Voyage, Chap. 34. Lawſon's *Voyage thro'* North Carolina.

profeſs'd Phyſicians or Surgeons, have, by their Writings, done great Service to both. And therefore, what Mr. *Thomas Ferne* enviouſly ſuggeſteth, is falſe, *viz.* that the Knowledge of either of theſe Sciences is above the *Sphere* of other Mens Capacities, as to *internal Remedies*, and beyond their Reach as to *manual Operation*. Dr. *Wagſtaff*, a Divine in this City, and the Reverend Mr. *Manſel* of *Northamptonſhire*, the one for Phyſick, and the other for Surgery, have given full Proof of their great Abilities and Succeſs in each; not to mention ſome others of the Clergy in the Country, who, to the great Comfort and Satisfaction of their poor indigent Neighbours, practiſe both: Therein following the Example of their Bleſſed Maſter; who, tho' he made the Soul the peculiar Object of his Heavenly Doctrine, yet he did not neglect the Diſeaſes and Infirmities of Mens Bodies. And they who conſider the great Influences which the various Diſpoſitions of our Bodies have over the Qualities and Operations of the Mind, will ſoon be convinc'd, that 'tis very fit a Man ſhould underſtand natural, as well as moral, Cauſes and Effects, and join Divinity and Phyſick together. *We lay this down for a certain Maxim*, [ſaith the Divine *Hippocrates*] *that Diſeaſes of the Body will hardly be conquer'd by any Medicines, unleſs the Mind be in a State of Tranquillity, and gain the Aſcendant over the Paſſions; that ſo the turbulent Spirits may recover their primitive Harmony and Repoſe.*

Preface to the King's Evil perfectly cur'd.

But not to detain you, Sir, any longer with theſe

theſe trifling Bickerings; as I envy no Man's Learning, Titles or Abilities, ſo I take all poſſible Care to make no Man angry or uneaſie at the Good God has enabled me to do; refuſing all Patients ſo long as they are under the Care of others, whether Phyſicians or Surgeons, and ſhould be glad to hear they meet with better Succeſs elſewhere.

That great Artiſt I before ſpoke of, is of Opinion, that moſt of thoſe Diſeaſes mentioned in his Chirurgical Treatiſe, do participate of the *Evil*: I know not whether one might entirely ſubſcribe to that great Man's Judgment in the Matter, but this, I believe, muſt be allowed, that, with us, very few Families are wholly clear of it; ſo that it's to be fear'd, there will be Work enough for all. *Mr. Sergeant Wiſeman.*

But however, the Diſtemper is of that malignant and miſchievous Nature, to our Bodies, that whoever can propoſe a ſafe and eaſie Method of curing or preventing it, one might well expect ſhould be look'd upon as an eſpecial Benefactor to Mankind; for where it doth not deſtroy Life, it often diſableth People (the whole Courſe of their Lives) from enjoying themſelves or others, with any Comfort or Satisfaction, as may be ſeen by many deplorable Inſtances, among both Sexes, groaning under the Torments of this cruciating Tyrant. So that where a Man's Services are manifeſt and indiſputable, either in giving Relief or Freedom from ſo great an *Evil*, he might reaſonably hope to merit the Good-Will and Encouragement of all Mankind.

That the Names and Habitations of ſome Perſons are not ſet down in the following Account of CURES you muſt not wonder; becauſe I find Perſons of Subſtance and Figure, are not willing it ſhould be known that they have had this Diſtemper, leſt it ſhould prejudice their Families: And even ſome of the numerous Poor whom I have cured *gratis*, have ſeem'd very unwilling to expoſe themſelves in print. But I aſſure you in the moſt ſolemn Manner, that theſe are no cunningly deviſed Fables, but moſt certain Matters of Fact, and real Truths. And if any Perſon of Worth and Diſtinction deſireth farther Satisfaction in any of the Particulars, I will endeavour to obtain a private perſonal Atteſtation either of the Patients themſelves, or ſome reputable Perſon to whom the thing is well known; or at leaſt refer to ſome other Cure (not mentioned here) which may, in ſome meaſure, be tantamount.

I am, SIR,

From my Houſe in Sherburne-lane, *next Door to the* Silver-Smiths, *near* Lombard-ſtreet.

Yours.

Specimen of Succeſs, &c.

The CASE *of* Charles Welſh.

IT pleaſed God in the Iſland of *Jerſey*, after the Small Pox there, to afflict me in a grievous manner with the *King's-Evil*; firſt, with a deep and large Ulcer in my Breaſt, then with two others on my right Arm; after theſe followed five more on my left Shoulder; and laſtly five others on my left Arm; whereby I was depriv'd of the Uſe of both Arms, being alſo ſo extream weak and lame, that I could neither go nor help my ſelf. I had all the Advice and Medicines that was there poſſible, particularly was under a Courſe of Salivation 7 Weeks; but theſe things having no effect upon me, I was remov'd thence into St. *Thomas's* Hoſpital, where I continu'd ſeveral Months; but not meeting with that Succeſs in this Place either, which many others have reaped; and being diſcharged, I was by my Friends then brought to Mr. *Vickers's*, a Clergyman, in *Sherborn-lane*; who, beyond his own, and all other People's Expectations, hath, God be praiſed, wrought a perfect and compleat Cure on me, being now as ſound and healthy as any other Perſon whatever. I lodge at a Shoe-maker's, next Door to the Croſs-keys Inn, *Grace-Church-*

ſtreet, where may be ſeen much more of this Cure than is here related, by

Nov. 26. 1706. *Charles Welch.*

SIR,

YOur great Succeſs in curing my Cancerous Breaſt, hath encouraged a neighbouring Gentlewoman in theſe Parts, much afflicted with the ſame Humour, and much after the ſame manner as I was, to try your Medicines; which you are deſired to ſend down by the next Return of our Carrier. I pray that ſhe may reap the ſame Benefit as I did, having, God be praiſed, continued ever ſince in good Health. From your moſt obliged, and humble Servant,

Yeowel, January 6th, 1707. *Jane Forbes.*

WHereas I *Mary Forbes*, being ſo grievouſly afflicted with the Evil in my Arms, Legs and Feet, that I could neither ſtand nor go without Crutches, and applying my ſelf to Mr. *Vickers*, a Clergy-man in *Sherburn-lane*, was, by God's Bleſſing, and his Medicines, perfectly freed from that Diſtemper. This Cure will be teſtified by my Relations, Neighbours, and ſelf, before any Perſon, whenſoever Mr. *Vickers* ſhall require it.

Mary Forbes.

March 19. 1706.

I *John Silks*, at the Olive-tree in the *Minories*, having a Child extreamly afflicted with the King's-Evil, do hereby own and declare, That the said Child was perfectly cured, through the Blessing of God, by the Reverend Mr. *Vickers*, living in *Sherburn-lane* near *Lombard-street*.

William Hirrup, who was so extremely afflicted with the King's Evil in his Eyes, that the Sight of both were almost lost, was in a few Months cur'd by Mr. *Vickers*, a Clergyman, living in *Sherburn-lane* near *Lombard-street*. The said *William Hirrup* liveth at a Chandler's Shop, near the Three-Tun Alehouse on *Little Tower-hill*, going into *East Smithfield*.

SIR,

THE Impostume in the Head of your poor Patient, *Sarah Green*, did break last Week, and she now finds her self much better, can move both her Arms: Her other Sores likewise are healed, and her Swellings are also asswaged. She desires to know if she must continue the Use of the Powder steeped in Water, as you advis'd, or whether she may forbear. Your speedy Answer will oblige your humble Servant,

April 9, 1708. *M. Stanhope.*

SIR,

I Send this to acquaint you, that my Child, which was blind with the *King's Evil* of both Eyes 3 or 4 Months, is now, by God's Blessing, and those Medicines which you sent me, perfectly recovered. I pray God to bless your Endeavours

deavours for the Benefit of others, as he hath done for mine, who am your most obliged Friend and Servant,

Stanstead, Feb. 21, 170$\frac{8}{9}$. *John Trayhearne.*

Edmund Mott, extremely afflicted with the *King's-Evil* in several Joints, and had been a Patient in St. *Bartholomew's* Hospital six Months, was afterwards cured by Mr. *Vickers*. The said *Edmund Mott* liveth in *Plow-Court, Grays-Inn-Lane.*

John Higgins, a Caulker, living at *Ratcliff-Cross*, was troubled with many running Sores under his Right Jaw, which his Surgeons judged to be the *King's Evil*. His Ulcers were large and deep, and with a little Pressure, Matter would issue forth in great abundance. *Nov.* 23, 1708. he applied himself to me, and the following *April* himself and Wife came to me in *John's* Coffee-house in *Swithins-Alley*, adjoining to the *Royal Exchange*, and gave me publick Thanks for the good Service I had done him in curing his Face, which he then declared had been sound and well two Months before he came to wait on me.

A Bookseller not far from the *Royal Exchange*, afflicted with the *King's Evil* in the same Part, and much after the same manner as in the Case abovementioned, was cured in six Weeks; when perhaps in another it might require

require ſixteen Months, there is that difference in Peoples Conſtitutions.

A Lady of Quality near *Soho Square* brought her Grand-daughter (a Child about 11 Years old) to my Houſe, very much afflicted with the *Evil* in her Noſe and upper Lip; both were very much ſwelled and ulcerated, and a thick Matter was every Night diſcharged from her Noſe upon the Pillow; inſomuch that the Loſs of that Part was much feared by the Grandmother. Her Conſtitution was hectick and coſtive, and her Appetite always craving. It was *Sept.* 13. 1707. when I undertook this Child, and by the following *Auguſt* it pleaſed God to bleſs my Endeavours with that Succeſs, that no one could diſcern ſhe had ever been afflicted with any ſuch Diſtemper; and ſhe has continued free from any ſuch Complaint ever ſince. Mr. *M*— her Majeſty's Apothecary knoweth the Truth of this Cure, and will (I preſume) upon requeſt teſtify the ſame.

A Young Man about 19 Years of Age, of a thin emaciated Conſtitution, being much afflicted with the *Evil* in his left Elbow, wherein were four or five Holes, his Arm likewiſe being very much waſted with the continually long running of thoſe Sores, the Humour having alſo contracted the Joint, that he could not extend his Arm. In this Condition his Parents committed him to my Care; the internal Application of my ſpecifick Remedy produced ſuch a mighty Flux of Matter, that

for

for ſome time he was obliged to dreſs his Sores thrice a Day: His Urine alſo (eſpecially in the Morning) would be very thick and foul, ſmelling at the ſame time very rank and ſower. It was almoſt a Year e'er his Cure was effected, but (I bleſs God) it was at laſt compleated. Diſtemper'd People are ſubject to ſo many Caſualties, that no Man can fix a Time for their Cure.

A Young Gentlewoman of a very good Family, much afflicted with the *King's Evil* for many Years under both her Jaws, above both her Breaſts, and likewiſe in one of her Elbows; for the Cure whereof ſhe had for ſome time drunk no other Liquor but the Decoction of the Woods, purging twice or thrice a Week with *Mercurius Dulcis* and *Extractum Rudii*. Theſe things availing nothing, ſhe betook her ſelf to the Uſe of the *Antimonial Powder*, ſo much recommended by a certain Perſon, and waited the Succeſs thereof a Year and half: But her Diſtemper increaſing, and having no Proſpect of good Effect, a near Relation perſuaded her to come to me. Her Condition in truth was ſo bad, that I could not give her any Encouragement, and ſo we parted. A few Days afterwards ſhe with her Relation came again to my Houſe, with a Reſolution to try my Method of Cure, leaving the Succeſs to Almighty God. I adviſed her to drink at leaſt every day three Pints of my *Specifick Water*, to waſh her Sores therewith Morning and Evening, and to dreſs them with the *Specifick Cerecloth*. The firſt News I heard

from

from her, was, that she complain'd of great Pains and Uneasinesses, concluding herself rather worse than better. As I knew the Reason and Necessity of her present Grievances, I begg'd her Patience and Perseverance a little longer: And perceiving the Orifices of her Ulcers too small to let out the *Matter*, I dilated each with Gentian Roots, upon which it's almost incredible to tell the Filth and Nastiness which her Sores vented at every Dressing. Part of her Elbow-bone exfoliated, which afterwards quickly heal'd; the rest of her Ulcers continued running several Months, and then they closed. I have not since heard from her the least Complaint or Apprehensions of a Relapse, and it is now more than two Years since her Cure was accomplish'd: which indeed I no more expected than I did my own.

MR. *Benjamin Syms*, the Parish-Clerk's Son of St. *Swithin*'s Church, *Cannonstreet*, I cur'd in a very short time, of several Ulcers in his Face, who is now grown a very healthful Young-man.

I Likewise cur'd a Surgeon's Widow, in *Brentford*, who, for many Years, was very much afflicted with the *Evil* in her Eyes; for the Cure whereof, her Husband, as she told me (a very ingenious Man) had us'd his utmost Endeavours, but to no Purpose.

A Young Gentleman of a very good Family in *Suſſex*, afflicted with many ſtrumous Sores and Swellings in his Neck, having, for ſeveral years tried moſt of the common Methods and Remedies for his Cure, and alſo Mr. *Ferne*'s *Alkalious Medicines*, but with no Advantage, came up to *London* with another Friend to treat with me. I gave him the *Specifick* Powder with Directions how to prepare it in Spring-Water, for his conſtant Drink: alſo Dreſſings for his Sores; with Inſtructions, likewiſe, for a Regimen of *Diet*. The firſt News I heard of him after his Return into the Country, was of a great Heat and Itching from Head to Foot; and of a very thick Scurft upon the Surface of the Skin, which ſo diſheartned him, that he forbore following the Method preſcribed, until I aſſur'd him that thoſe Symptoms were the Effects of the Remedy, and, (according to what I had experienced in others) hopeful Indications of his Cure. As I ſaid, ſo it came to paſs. The firſt of *April*, 1708. was the Day when he enter'd upon his Courſe, and before *Chriſtmas* he came to ſee me without the leaſt Sore or Swelling about him.

How far the *Imagination or a Thought deeply fix'd and exalted, as it were, into a Belief, is of Power to alter the Body of the Patient*, I pretend not to determine; yet I have ſome Reaſon from the following Caſe to think, that where People have a good Opinion of their Phyſician, it may contribute ſomething towards facilitating their Cure.

Suſan

Susan Waltum having heard of my Success in curing the *Kings-Evil*, travell'd a-foot out of *Lincolnshire* to seek my Assistance. She had been grievously afflicted with the Evil in her Eyes (as she said) from her Infancy: One she apprehended was quite lost, and the Sight of the other very dark. She had, moreover, many hard and glandulous Swellings on each Side of her Neck, which she fear'd would obstruct her Swallowing: Her Condition appear'd to me so bad, that I could not give her the least Hope. The Young-woman several Days importun'd me to help her, firmly believing (as she told me) that if I would I might do her good. Her constant Application prevailed with me to try what might be done; and according to her Belief so it came to pass, by the Use of those Means I prescribed she first of all gain'd the Sight of both Eyes, so as to be able to sow and knit; afterwards some of her Swellings broke, run and healed; others asswag'd and went away insensibly; at last she was so well recover'd, that she went to Service, and continued sound and well until she was seiz'd with the Small-pox, whereof she died. The Truth of this Cure is known to most People now living in *Bell-ally* near *Colemanstreet*.

A Gentleman's Daughter of *Rixmondworth*, afflicted with weak and sore Eyes from her Cradle; she had been severely treated with all the common Methods of *Purging*, *Diet-Drinking*, and *Blistering*, to so little Purpose (as her Father told me) that by how much the more he had

tamper'd, the worſe it was with her: and therefore for the future, he reſolv'd not to afflict her afreſh with the like Severities. My Method I aſſur'd him was of that eaſie and gentle Nature that a ſucking Child might endure it, whereupon the Gentleman took a Quantity of my *Specifick* Remedy, with Directions how to prepare it in ſuch Drink as ſhe would take (the Young-woman having an Averſion to Water) and a Bill of Fare for her *Diet*. About three Weeks or a Month afterwards, this Gentleman came to my Houſe in a great Fury, crying out that his Child's Eyes were worſe than ever; very much enflamed, the Sight of both almoſt cover'd with two large *Films*, and her Head alſo broke out in ſeveral Places. I deſired him to return home and have Patience, to bleed her five or ſix Ounces, and purſue the Method before preſcrib'd, and in a little time he would find his Child's Eyes to grow every Day better and better. My Predictions (I thank God) prov'd true; and her Father was ſo wonderfully pleaſed with his Child's Recovery and Cure, that he doubled his Acknowledgment to me for the good Service.

For the Conviction of thoſe who need it, that internal Remedies may be found able to perform Chirurgical Operations, the following Caſe may, I think, not be unſerviceable.

A Tradeſman's Child, near *Queenhith*, *Thames-ſtreet*, about eleven Years of age, of an healthful Conſtitution in all other Reſpects, excepting

cepting a large *Scrophulous Tumour*, not ulcerated, adhering to one of her Jaws. This Tumour, by the internal Application of my *Specifick* Remedy, in 2 Months Time, was brought to such a Maturity, that I press'd out the Chore between my Fingers, before the Child's Parents, and several other People, then present; and used no other Means to accomplish her Cure, but the inward Administration of my *Specifick Remedy*; and the Child has no Sign or Symptom of the *Evil* to be seen about her, since she was cur'd, which is now more than two Years. The like I did with such another Tumour, the Bigness of a Gooses Egg, on a Boys Thigh: He lives in *Drury-lane*, the End of great *Queen-street*.

A Gentleman living in *Bow*, by *Stratford*, brought his Son, about 14 years of age. He had the *Evil* in his upper Lip, which was very much swelled, and likewise cover'd with a thick Scab. I gave him some Gally-pots of my Specifick Ointment, to anoint his Lip every Night going to Bed; and some Papers of the *Specifick* Remedy, to take thrice a Day in what Liquor he pleas'd, the Use whereof he continued but two Months or ten Weeks, and became well. This young Man, I presume, may be known to the Reverend Mr. *Gaynam*; because, to the best of my Remembrance, I heard his Father say his Son was his Scholar before and since his Cure.

A Young-Woman about 19 Years of Age, came to my Houſe, afflicted with the *King's Evil* in the following Manner: She had one ſtrumous Swelling, very large and hard, on the right Side of her Neck; cloſe above the *Claviculæ*, under the ſame Arm-pit, was a deep Ulcer, and another on the out-ſide of the ſame Shoulder; likewiſe many ſcrophulous Sores and Ulcers down from her right Knee to the Ancle. The long Continuance of this Diſeaſe, with two Salivations ſhe had paſs'd through, had reduc'd her Body to a meer Skeleton: This being her Condition, when I firſt undertook her Cure, the following Letter, written with her own Hand, will give the Reader a ſatisfactory Account of my Succeſs.

For the Reverend Mr. Vickers, *in* Sherburn-lane.

Sir,

BEing unexpectedly call'd out of Town, to viſit a Relation which lieth very ſick and weak, I have ſent the Bearer hereof with my Acknowledgments and hearty Thanks for your curing me of a Diſtemper, under which I had labour'd ſome Years; whereof now, bleſſed be God, I am ſo well recover'd, that I have not one Sore, Swelling, or any other Symptom of the Evil about me. I ſhall not be wanting to own your great Care and Succeſs, and to do you all the real Service I am able. So I reſt your Friend and obliged Servant.

Sept. 13. 1707.

Whereas

WHereas I *Susan Wallis*, living in *Church-lane*, by *Whitechappel*-Church, near the *Queens-Head* Alehouse, having for many Years been miserably afflicted with the *Kings-Evil* in such a violent Manner, in my Neck, Breasts, and both Arms, that the Surgeons of St. *Bartholomew*'s Hospital would not suffer my Admittance there for Cure. I applied my self to Mr. *Vickers*, a Clergy-man in *Sherburn-lane*, near *Lombard-Street*, who, contrary to mine and all other People's Expectations, did, in a wonderful manner, effect my Cure; having ever since, blessed be God, enjoyed an extraordinary State of Health.

Sept. 6. 1707. Witness my Hand,
Susan Wallis.

WHereas I *Matthew Winter*, living at Mrs. *Vaughan*'s, next door to the *Feathers* in *Billiter-lane*, being very much afflicted with the *Kings Evil* in my Face, wherein I had many running Sores, as also several hard and large Swellings in my Neck, for which I could not obtain any Cure, until I apply'd my self to Mr. *Vickers*, a Clergy-man, living in *Sherburn-lane*, near *Lombard-street*, who, by the Blessing of God, did effect my Cure in a very short time. In Testimony hereof I have witnessed my Hand,

Octob. 25. 1707. *Matthew Winter.*

Note, Since this Man was cur'd, he hath been one Voyage to the *East-Indies*, and is now gone

a ſecond: but Mrs. *Vaughan*, and moſt of the Neighbours thereabout, know the Truth thereof.

A Young Lady, Siſter to an eminent Gentleman of *Hampſhire*, ſo much afflicted with this Evil Humour in her Eyes, from her Childhood, that the Violence thereof had almoſt deprived her of the Sight of both, notwithſtanding her plentiful Fortune had enabled her to ſeek for all the Advice and Aſſiſtance City or Country could afford. A near Relation having ſeen one of my Cures on another Perſon, much of the ſame Nature, recommended her to me, and in three Weeks Time, while ſhe lodg'd in *Covent-Garden*, my *Specifick* Remedy had that good Effect that ſhe was able to read a very ſmall Print by Candle-light, without the leaſt Trouble or Offence to her Eyes: From whom, ſince her Return into the Country, I have had ſeveral Letters, ſignifying that ſhe continues well, and free from any Suſpicion of a Relapſe, whereof the following may give the Reader ſome Satisfaction.

Reverend Sir, *May* 18. 1709.

THIS comes to acquaint you, that my Eyes continue very well ever ſince I left *London*, ſo that I hope there is no farther Occaſion for a freſh Supply of Medicine. I have ſome Thoughts of going to the *Bath* with a Relation: I deſire your Opinion, if I may bath, or only drink the Waters? What you adviſe, I ſhall ſtrictly obſerve. I have alſo another Favour to ask; A Friend of mine ſeeing your *Companion to*

the

the Altar, &c. would have you to ſend down by the firſt Return of our Carrier a Dozen and half. So with mine and Siſter's Service, *&c.*

IT pleaſed God to grant me likewiſe the ſame good Succeſs on a Clergyman's Child afflicted in her Eyes, Noſe, and upper Lip with the *King's Evil*. The Child's Uncle, an eminent Apothecary in this City, hath been ſo kind as to own her Cure in ſeveral publick Places.

A

A Child about five Years old at *Lowlayton* in *Eſſex*, having large ſtrumous Swellings of the Bigneſs of a large Walnut fixed to the right ſide directly under the Arm, his Father dreaded its breaking, declaring he would give an hundred Pounds rather than it ſhould ulcerate. I gave this Child my *Specifick* Remedy ſeven or eight Months, in which time the Swellings waſted and went away inſenſibly, and I am ſure there is not now a finer Child in the Kingdom. Mr. *Ferne* I ſuppoſe may have heard of this Cure, becauſe he's very well known to this Child's Father.

A Tradeſman's Daughter about 12 Years of Age, living in *Milkſtreet*, *London*, was in like manner afflicted with the *King's Evil* in the ſame Part, tho' not ſo bad as the former. I compaſſed her Cure in five Months time: She is now grown a very healthful young Woman, and her Father declares ſhe hath a better State of Health than any of his other Children.

A

A Young Lad, an Apprentice to Mr. *Colſton*, at a Toyſhop againſt the *Royal Exchange*, had the *Evil* under one of his Jaws, whom I cured in leſs than ſix Weeks. As alſo another Shopkeepers Daughter not far from the *Swan and Hoop Tavern*, of many ulcerated Tumors in her Left Arm; but her Cure was not ſo ſpeedily accompliſhed as the former.

A Lady in the Country hearing of my Succeſs in curing the *Evil*, brought her only Child to Town for my Advice and Aſſiſtance. The Boy had a large ſcrophulous Ulcer on the top of his right Foot, and the left Ancle was very much ſwelled with the ſame Humour; otherwiſe of an healthful Conſtitution. Suſpecting the Bones to be foul in the ulcerated Foot, I told the Mother I could not do her Son any Service the ſhort time ſhe propoſed to ſtay in *London*; but if ſhe pleaſed to let him experience my Method of Cure in the Country where ſhe lived, I would give her Medicines, with Inſtructions how to apply them; unto which ſhe conſented. The firſt Account I had from the Lady was of the Exfoliation of ſome foul Bones belonging to the *Metatarſus*, and that the ſwelled Ancle was broke. Accordingly I ſent her Directions how to manage thoſe Matters, keeping a Correſpondency by Letters as occaſion required. How Matters ſucceeded in this caſe, I refer my ſelf to the Lady's following Letter.

SIR,

SIR,

With unspeakable Joy I congratulate you with the Good News of my Son's Cure, attained by the Blessing of God, and those Means you prescribed. I forbore writing until the Spring and Fall were over, for fear of a Relapse, which I thank God I have no reason to suspect. The Child is well, and in extraordinary good health, and will be in London *in a few Weeks to wait on you himself. God Almighty make me thankful, and bless your Endeavours for the Good of others, as he hath done for mine. So I rest your most obliged Friend and Servant.*

Sept. 9. 1707.

A Merchant's Child, about 9 Years of Age, (very well known to that Eminent Physician, who was pleas'd to dignify me with the Title of *Quack*) was so miserably afflicted with the *Evil* in her Eyes, that for several Months (as her Father assured me) she had not been out of Bed, nor able to suffer the least Light to enter the Room where she lay. She had taken great Quantities of *Mercurius dulcis*, and likewise the common Decoctions of the Woods, with some other Simples (whereby her Appetite was almost lost) to sweeten her Blood. In order to her Relief, I thought it adviseable to dry up an Issue she then had, and to open one in the other Arm. Then I order'd my *Specifick* Liquor for her ordinary Drink, and no other, except a Glass of Wine at Meals; to observe a Regimen

of

of Diet, and to wash her Eyes both Morning and Night, and at several other times in the Day, with the same *Specifick* Liquor she drank of. The Effect thereof was this: The Child was able in 14 Days to walk up and down the House without a Covering to shade the Light from her Eyes, and in four Months she was perfectly cured.

A Young Woman about 22 Years of Age, Wife to an Officer in the Excise at *Kingston* upon *Thames*, had a grievous ulcerated Breast. Some Surgeons said it was the *Evil*, others that it was a *Cancer*; nor will I offer to determine the Point. But remembring a Passage in *Brown*'s *Surgery*, that "scrophulous Ulcers often dege-"nerate into Cancers, I told this Woman if my *Specifick* Remedy and Regimen of *Diet* would do her any Service, she should be welcome to my Endeavours, but as for a Cure I could not pretend to assure her of. Both she and her Husband thankfully accepting of my Offer, I first washed her Breast with my *Specifick* Water; afterwards I applied the Cerecloth double over the *Ulcer*, which Dressings I order'd her to repeat twice a Day as I had shewed her, to drink the *Specifick* Liquor for her constant Drink, at least three Pints a Day, and to observe the *Diet* according to Instructions. I will not attempt to set forth how great a Quantity of Matter was discharged from this Woman's Breast at every Dressing, because few People will believe it possible; yet notwithstanding this plentiful Flux, which lasted above four Months, she

she went every Day briskly about her Business, never complaining of the least Pain or Indisposition. This Method she continued two Years, and then became perfectly well; the Truth whereof both Husband and Wife, with several of their Friends, are ready to testify upon any Occasion.

A Young Gentleman in this City about 19 Years of Age, of a Consumptive Habit of Body, and melancholy Complexion, came to me, *April* 13. 1708. with scrophulous Ulcers above the right *Scapula*, for the Cure whereof he had been fluxed twice, besides great Quantities of *Diet-Drinks* of all sorts he had taken to sweeten his Blood, which he affirm'd had done him more Hurt than his Distemper; for before the Use of those things, he enjoyed (as he said) a good State of Health; but now he had neither Stomach to eat, nor Strength to support himself. He complained moreover of intolerable Pains and Gripings in his Guts, which he feared was the *Mercury* lodg'd in those Parts. I told him he had Youth on his side, and if he pleased to retire into the Country some small distance from *London*, I would use my utmost Endeavours to effect his Cure. Accordingly he went to *Richmond*, and first of all I ply'd him with a Medicine to clear his Body of the *Mercury*; which was speedily effected, as I had reason to think, by the Ease he found in those Parts: Then passing a Probe into the Ulcer, I found it very deep; and therefore I made small Tents of the *Specifick* Oint-

Ointment to penetrate to the bottom, covering the *Superficies* of the *Ulcer* with my *Cere-cloth*. These Dressings were repeated twice a day; and for his constant Use I confin'd him to common Table Drink, wherein a sufficient Quantity of my *Specifick* Remedy had been infused; as also to eat a sort of *Herbs* dress'd Sallet-wise once a day without fail; which Method he continued 7 Months, whereby he became fat and jolly, and able to walk from *Richmond* to *London*. And by the following *Christmas* the Cure was finish'd.

A Maid Servant about 16 Years of Age, of a Plethorick Constitution, came to me *August* the 12*th*, 1707. having many Tumors in one of her Thighs and Legs, for the Cure whereof (by the account she gave) she had been treated by others according to the *Rational Method*, but with no advantage. She had not the Evacuation peculiar to her Sex, which I judged absolutely necessary should be obtain'd to facilitate her Cure; for which purpose I made her a *Chalybiate Tincture*, to take half a Pint every Morning fasting, which had its desired Effect. After this I advised her to take my *Specifick* Liquor for her constant Drink, and to observe my Regimen of Diet. But her Cure, as she fancied, going on slowly, she grew weary of my Method, and apply'd her self unto others, who it seems made a Jest of my Proceedings. Three Months afterwards she returns to me *Hydropical*, and in a very weak Condition, beseeching me to take her once more

under

under Cure. At firſt I refuſed, apprehending her Cure would be more tedious than before, if at all poſſible. But ſhe with ſome of her Friends earneſtly importuning me, I wrote a Preſcription of ſome Hydragogues to an Apothecary, adviſing her to drink two or three Glaſſes of White Wine dulcified with Syrup of Elderberries for the Cure of her *Dropſy*, which being ſubdued, I attacked her other Enemy with the ſame Method ſhe was treated withal before ſhe left me, by which her numerous Swellings did ſpeedily ſuppurate, diſcharging abundance of Matter; alſo ſeveral rotten *Scales* ſeparated and came away. It was full 18 Months e'er I was able to finiſh this Woman's Cure, who is now a married Woman, and has three very fine Children, and is ſo far from having any remaining Symptoms whatſoever, that her Husband knows not to this Day that ſhe ever had any ſuch Diſtemper.

A Gentleman with his Lady (living near St. *James*'s Church) brought their Son, about 17 Years old, to my Houſe: The young Man had a great Cluſter of ſcrophulous Tumours on the right ſide of his Neck, and the like under each Jaw. Many Endeavours they told me had been uſed to diſperſe them, but to no purpoſe. They diſcourſed with me about my Method, whereof I perceived they had no good Opinion. From me they went with their Child to a great Phyſician in thoſe Parts where they lived, who according to the Practice of ſome who would be thought great Artiſts, us'd

me with more Freedom than becomes the Education their Friends have beſtow'd upon them; he adviſed them by all means to carry their Son down to the *Bath*, to bath him every day, and to let him drink thoſe Waters, from whence he ſaid they might expect a Cure. Father, Mother, and Son went down to the *Bath*, carrying with them from their Doctor a large Scroll of Preparatives, where they ſtayed three Months, doing all things there *ſecundum artem*, as their Great Phyſician had directed. But it ſeems Great Men are not always in the right, the young Man was brought up to *London* in a worſe Condition than when he left it; the Diſtemper had ſeized his Lungs, and ſo weak was he, that he looked more like a dead than a living Creature. His Father reflecting on my former Diſcourſe, ſent for me a 2*d* time, begging me, if it were poſſible, to preſerve his Child's Life. Not regarding former Uſage, I gave the young Man a large quantity of my *Specifick* Remedy, with Directions how to prepare it in Spring-water for his conſtant Drink, adviſing him to retire into ſome Country; and accordingly he went into *Oxfordſhire* to a Farmhouſe belonging to his Father, where he ſtayed five Months, in which time he ſo wonderfully recovered, that few People believed him to be the ſame Perſon. I preſs'd his Continuance in the *Air*, and at the end of five other Months he returned home as free from the Diſtemper as any Man living. His *quondam* Doctor paſſing by the Father's Houſe, lighted out of his Chariot to enquire after his Patient, and finding him

him clear of his Swellings, and in a perfect State of Health (not knowing what other Means had been uſed) aſcribed the Succeſs to the Uſe of the *Bath* Waters. No, quoth the Father, Sir, you are miſtaken, it was a Quack Medicine, obtain'd from that Gentleman (naming me) whom you formerly reviled.

THE High Sheriff's Son of *Cumberland*, a Youth about 16 Years of Age, of a ruddy Complexion, was miſerably afflicted with glandulous Swellings on each Side of his Throat, ſo that he had little or no Paſſage for his Food, and apprehended in a little Time he ſhould be choaked. This Young-man was brought to me in Mr. *Child*'s Shop, Bookſeller in St. *Paul*'s Church-yard, whoſe Condition appearing dangerous, I deſired ſome time to conſider of it. The next Morning, the young Gentleman with his Friends came to know my Reſolutions. I propoſed a Week or ten Days Tryal, which they agreed to; in which Time, by the inward Application of my Specifick Remedy, the Young-man could eat Roaſt Beef, and Plum-pudding heartily. The Medicine had a different Effect upon him to what it hath upon others, working gently three or four Times a Day by Stool: One of his Swellings broke, run, and heal'd; the other aſſwaged and went away inſenſibly. Mr. *Ferne* may remember this young Gentleman's Caſe, if he pleaſeth to call to mind the Diſcourſe he had with Mr. *Story*, in *Ship-yard* near *Temple-bar*, my Patient then lodg'd at a Houſe there.

A Gentleman's Daughter about ſix Years old, living in the *Broad-Place*, *Weſtminſter*, much afflicted with the *Evil* in her Eyes, Noſe and Lips. The Child being of a mild and tractable Diſpoſition, drank, every Day, a Quart or three Pints of my *Specifick* Water. The firſt Appearance of her Recovery was in her Eyes: the next was the Extirpation of a cruſty hard Scab, within each Noſtril, which obſtructed her Breathing: the third was, her upper Lip (which had been extremely ſwelled) aſſwag'd, and became conformable to the other. It was ſix Months e're her Cure was accompliſhed, but ſhe is now as fine a Child as any in thoſe Parts, her Mother lately declaring to me, that ſince her Child's Cure, which is more than three Years, ſhe hath not had any Returns of the Humour in the Parts formerly affected; nor any thing like it elſewhere.

N. B. After this Child had drank this *Specifick* Liquor two Months, a large Tumour aroſe under her right Arm, which, without any external Application broke and diſcharg'd abundance of filthy Matter, and then healed firm and ſound in leſs than ſixteen Days.

Having intimated Page 20. of the Book how incredulous ſome People are of a Man's Abilities to ſerve them, eſpecially when their Expectations of Succeſs have been fruſtrated by Men of great Practice and Characters: I will here give an Inſtance of ſuch a Caſe.

A Gentleman of a very good Family, afflicted with this Diſtemper 16 Years, had ſeveral large and deep Ulcers in one of his Arms, above the Elbow-Joint; and likewiſe one large Ulcer on each Shin-bone: His plentiful Fortune had commanded all the Help and Aſſiſtance for his Cure this Kingdom afforded; inſomuch that hardly a Man eminent either in Phyſick or Surgery eſcaped him. An Acquaintance of mine told ſome of his Relations of my Succeſs with ſeveral People, whom they ſaw, and received from them all the Satisfaction they could wiſh or deſire. But all availed nothing, himſelf and Relations alledging that if thoſe great Men with whom they had already adviſed could not cure him, they could not believe me capable of doing him any Service. Sometime after, the Gentleman ſends for me, deſiring that he might have my *Specifick* Remedy to take inwardly, with all thoſe other neceſſary Inſtructions I judg'd conducive to his Cure, except the Dreſſings of his Sores, which he ſaid were then under the Care and Management of ſo conſiderable an Artiſt, that, without his Conſent, he was not willing to truſt me with any outward Applications. I anſwered I muſt do both or none, and upon this we parted, without any Expectations on my Side to ſee or hear more of him; but after a few Days the Gentleman came again, and ſaid he had obtain'd Leave for me to undertake both. I begun his Cure in *April*, 1709. my ſelf dreſſing his Ulcers every Morning with my *Specifick*

Cerecloth and Ointment, and obliging him to drink every Day, at leaſt three Pints of my *Specifick* Liquor. In a Months time, thoſe foul Bones, which himſelf and Friends fear'd I had not Judgment ſufficient to deal with, drop'd out one Morning, when I took of his Dreſſings, and by the following *September*, he had not one Sore or Symptom of the *Evil* to be ſeen about him. After his Cure was finiſh'd he went a Journey on Horſe-back 300 Miles, and I have heard no Complaints of any Relapſe, tho' its a Year ago ſince he was cured.

A Gentleman living near St. *Sepulchres* Church brought his Daughter to me, having a large moveable Tumour under her right Jaw; her Father was very fearful of its breaking, and therefore begged of me, if it were poſſible, to prevent its turning to a Sore. I told him if it might be done with Safety to her future Health, I would endeavour it. Accordingly I gave her one Dram of my *Specifick* Remedy, to take in Subſtance, Morning, Noon, and Night, in her common Drink, by the Uſe whereof, in a Months Time, her Parents obſerv'd a viſible Decay of the Swelling, and in four Months there was no Sign of it left. It's now full two Years ſince ſhe was cur'd, in all which Time I have heard no Complaints of Relapſe, nor of any other Indiſpoſition attending its Diſſolution.

A Young Lady about 18 Years of Age, extremely afflicted with ſore Eyes from her Cradle, with ſtrumous Swellings in her Neck; and

and likewiſe with a filthy thick Scurff over her Face, Neck, Shoulders and Breaſts: For the Cure whereof ſeveral Phyſicians, Surgeons and Apothecaries had been employed, but her Diſeaſe had always reſiſted the ſtrongeſt Efforts of their *Diet-Drinks*, *Bleedings*, *Bliſterings*, *Iſſues*, *Mercurial* and *Antimonial* Purges. When I undertook her Cure, *March* 7, 170⅘. I obliged her for ſome time to drink at leaſt two Quarts of my *Specifick* Liquor every Day; to eat plentifully ſome particular Herbs dreſs'd with Oil, Vinegar and Sugar, and to exchange her fine Down Bed for that of clean Straw, which was ſhifted every Morning. The firſt Appearance of an Amendment was in her Eyes, being able to ſee the Light of the Sun and Fire without a Shade: The next Advantage ſhe reaped, was her filthy Scurff peel'd off by Degrees, ſo that her Face, *&c.* begun to look like other Peoples: after this, her Swellings in her Neck, (except one which broke and run) aſſwaged and went away; ſo that there was promiſing Hopes of a perfect Cure, beyond *Relapſe*, until *Auguſt*, when the Humour return'd a-freſh into her Eyes, tho' not with the uſual Severity as formerly, neither did it continue above four Days. The Winter approaching, I adviſed her to change the Straw-Bed for a hard Quilt; to purſue the Uſe of the Specifick Liquor and Herb-Diet, until the Fall of the Leaf was over, by which Means ſhe became perfectly well, and hath continued free from any Relapſe above theſe two Years. The Truth whereof (to do me any Service) ſhe will not ſcruple to own.

A Young-woman, living neat *Shoreditch*-Church, afflicted with this Diſtemper in both her Elbows, in the Wriſt of one of her Hands, and likewiſe on the major outward Canthus of her right Eye, ſo that ſhe feared the Loſs of that Eye, was adviſed by a Neighbour, whoſe Child I had cured of the ſame Diſtemper (tho' not ſo bad) to come to me; but it ſeems, ſome Surgeons, whom ſhe had conſulted, told her poſitively it was in vain to expect a Cure, by any other Means whatſoever, but by *Amputation*, which the Young-woman and her Mother would not hear of; and through much Perſwaſions of the Neighbour, Mother and Daughter came to my Houſe, *May* was twelve-Month, to know if I could cure the Diſtemper. I told them it was not my Method to warrant any thing, but they ſhould ſee thoſe whom I had cur'd from a worſe Condition; as they did. Upon thoſe Encouragements, the Young-woman took my Remedies, both for outward and inward Application, with all other Inſtructions conducive to her Cure, which had that good Effect, not only to preſerve the Sight of her Eye, to heal her Sores, but alſo to recover the loſt Uſe of her Joints; ſo that now ſhe is able to get her Living by making of Manteaus.

A Practitioner in Phyſick, of good Buſineſs and Repute, about 30 Miles diſtant from *London*, was pleas'd to communicate the following Caſe to me, *Jan.* 19. 1707.

SIR,

SIR,

IT's my Misfortune to have been afflicted with the *King's Evil* very near twenty Years. The first Appearance was a large Tumour on my Thigh, which broke and run; several small Pieces of Bone came away with little or no Pain, except at the Times of Dressing. Next followed another such like Tumour, with a Throbbing Pain in the *Inguen* of the same Thigh, which was open'd with a *Caustick*, and in about half a Year seemed to be well; but afterwards the Humour breaking out a-fresh, I felt a Pain hardly tolerable, having little or no Rest Night nor Day, without *Anodines*: for the Cure whereof I pass'd thro' a Course of Salivation, which did neither check nor alter the Course of the Humours; but afterwards several scrophulous Kernels appearing in the *Membrana carnosa*, I was under dismal Consternations, and not knowing what to do, I betook my self unto the habitual Use of a Diet-Drink made of the *Woods*, with *Lime*-Water, which after a long Experience, prov'd as useless as all my other Applications. If therefore, you can do me any Service, I will generously gratifie your Endeavours, and likewise make you Amends by many other Recommendations.

I am, SIR, your humble Servant.

What Success my Method of Cure had upon this Gentleman, his own Words, in the following Letter will testify.

Rev.

Rev. SIR,

I Have deferr'd Writing to you, to see if the Happiness which I now enjoy by your Medicines, was like to last. I thank God I have been well and free from any Symptom of the Evil, above these four Months, and therefore will not trouble you for a Supply of your Specifick Remedy *until the Spring, when I intend to renew its Application for a Month. The next Month I shall be in* London, *to pay you my Respects and hearty Acknowledgments for those great Services you have done for me.*

Nov. 3. 1707. I rest your most obliged humble Servant.

A Tradesman in this City, about last *Christmas*, brought his only Son, a Boy about 6 Years old, to me, very much afflicted with the *Evil* in his right Leg, from his Knee down to the Ancle, whereon he had several running Sores, and the Bone carious in many Places. I enlarged his Sores by degrees, with some Spunge Tents, made with my *Specifick* Ointment, ordering the Child to drink plentifully of my *Specifick* Liquor for his constant Drink, and to wash his Sores therewith every Dressing; and notwithstanding the Disposition of the *Air* at that Season was not very commodious, yet I observed some Indications of a future Success, which the Child's Mother not believing, (unknown to the Father) sent for a Physician and Surgeon to pass their Judgments on my Proceedings: They suggested that better Measures might

might be taken for the Boy's Cure, than those Remedies I had apply'd. Whereupon I immediately gave Place to their Opinions, and left the Child to their Management: But after they had treated him two Months *secundum artem*, the Boy's Father and Mother came again, and desired me to renew my former Applications, declaring their Son was worse than ever; that he had lost the Use of his Knee, and was not able to go nor stand without Crutches. This Account did very much surprize me; because, when I left the Child with those Gentlemen, the Boy had the full Use of his Joints, and was in every Respect (excepting his Sores) as well as other Children. After I had viewed the Child, I freely told his Parents my Thoughts, that there was no Hopes of retrieving the Use of his Joint, but he would be a Cripple all the Days of his Life; and the only Service I was able to do for him was to heal his Sores, and to prevent the Distemper from breaking out elsewhere; which, it pleased God, after a few Months Care, and Application of my *Specifick* Remedies, to enable me to effect.

A Youth about 14 Years of Age was brought to me out of *Norfolk*, with great Defluxions in both his Eyes, and his upper Lip swelled with the same Humour; he likewise complain'd of a very great Pain and Inflamation in the Issue which he had in his Arm, which I found was not cut in its right Place. I advis'd him immediately to dry up his Issue, or otherwise, if continued, he might loose that Arm, and to get another cut

in

in the oppoſite Arm, my ſelf marking the Place where it ſhould be made; when that was done, for ſome Reaſons, I adviſ'd him to take two Purges of a particular Preparation of Rhubarb, and then to begin the Uſe of my Specifick Remedy in his common Table-drink. His Inflamation in 7 or 8 Days was very much abated, and the Fluxion moderately ſtopp'd. I made him alſo to waſh his Eyes with a *Collyrum* made of the ſame Specifick Remedy, with Roſe and Plantain Water. By the Uſe of this Means, after two ſmall Relapſes, he got rid of his ſore Eyes, and ſwelled Lip, and return'd home to his own Country. Neither can I hear (having often enquir'd) that his Eyes have been ſore ſince he was cur'd, which, I think, is about ſeven Months.

☞ People ſhould be cautious what external *Remedies* they apply to their *Eyes*. I had very near loſt the Sight of both mine by the Uſe of an *Eye-Water*, very much recommended by one who gave it me. I find by my own Experience that when this Diſtemper ſeizes the *Eyes*, take away the Cauſe by inward Means, and the Effect will ceaſe: And I have found likewiſe by the Teſtimony and Experience of others, that thoſe *Eyes* have always far'd the worſe, which have been moſt tamper'd withal by outward Remedies. There is now a Young-woman, living in *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*, who may curſe the Day as long as ſhe liveth for the Uſe of an *Eye-Water* given her by Sir Knight. Alſo another Young-woman, who, for a ſmall Inflamation

tion in her Eyes applied an hot Poultice, and thereby in one Night loſt the Sight of both her Eyes for ever.

A Boy about 13 Years of Age, of good natural Parts, the Son of a worthy and learned Gentleman of *Halſtead* in *Eſſex*, was ſorely afflicted with the *Evil* in both his Eyes, and likewiſe with ſeveral hard Swellings in his Neck. His Father deſir'd me to uſe the ſame Endeavours for his Child's Cure, as I had done for my ſelf and others, and that ſhould content him. I begun this Boy's Cure in *April*, 1709. and notwithſtanding I met with ſeveral ſevere Repulſes in my Applications, yet it pleaſed God at laſt to enable me to conquer his Diſtemper, as may be ſeen by the Account given in the following Letter written by his Father.

Reverend Sir,

I Hope you and your good Lady are well. I ſhould be glad to ſee you both at Halſtead. *My Son (through God's Bleſſing) upon taking your Specifick ſeems to be very well; he has no Kernels left in his Neck, his Eyes have not been ſore, nor run, nor been gummy for a long time; but his Sight is as good as ever. He has lately taken another Doſe of your purging Steel Liquor: His uſual Drink is now common Table Drink, and his Iſſue runs very well. My Wife would know if ſhe may dry that up. There is wonderful notice taken in theſe Parts far and near of what you have done for my Child. A Gentleman, on Friday laſt, that*

lives ſome Miles from me, was asking me about my Child, where you lived, how he might ſpeak with you, and what were your Demands. I told him you was a reaſonable Man, and did conſider Peoples Circumſtances. Who it is that wants your Help I know not, but as for this Gentleman, who enquired of me about you, he is very well acquainted with moſt Perſons of Quality in our Country, ſo that if you can accord it may be much for your Advantage. I lent him your Book to read, which did mightily pleaſe him. Mr. Morley *of our Town gives you a good Word, and you may aſſure your ſelf I ſhall not be wanting to manifeſt your juſt Praiſes and Commendations to all People. My Wife and Son give their Services to you. So praying God to bleſs your generous Deſigns for all Mankind, I reſt your moſt humble Servant,*

July, 1710. W. H.

A Gentleman whoſe Name I never knew, nor from whence he came, came to my Houſe, *May* the *9th*, 1708. where he ſhewed me one *Struma* on the Left Side of his Neck, alſo one ulcerated in each Arm, with a large Ulcer on the back of his Right Hand, and laſt of all a foul Ulcer on the outſide of his left Ancle; for the Cure whereof he ſaid he had been ſalivated twice, and Diet-drinks and Teſtaceous Pouders he had taken to an incredible Number; but as yet nothing had availed him. He told me likewiſe he had heard much ſaid for and againſt me, but reſolved to ſpeak with me himſelf; and after he had diſcourſed with me about half an Hour, he concluded to let me undertake

his

his Cure, and accordingly takes a Lodging for himself and Servant near my House. I constantly attended him every Morning to dress his Sores; and whereas he told me Water did never agree with his Constitution, I infused half an Ounce of my *Specifick* Remedy in two Gallons of Ale and one of Small Beer for his constant Drink, allowing him a Glass of Wine at Meals. This Drink put his Humours into such a quick Motion, that his Sores run prodigiously, insomuch that he begun to be very timorous, and apprehensive of some iminent Danger. I preached to him Patience and Perseverance, and all things would in the Issue do well: Which he not believing, declined the use of my Remedies, and enter'd upon another Method. He had not continued his new Course above 14 Days, but the former Flux and Current of the Humours stopp'd, attended with great Sickness at Stomach, Want of Appetite, and violent continual Pains in his Head. Upon this he sends for me a second time, beseeching me to renew my former Applications, which he promised to abide by for the future without wavering. At first I refused him as a just Punishment for his Contempt; but considering that he was a Man subject to *like Passions* with my self, I yielded to take care of him; and accordingly sent away immediately for an Apothecary to prepare a large Blister to lay between his Shoulders to divert the Humour out of his Head, which had immediate Effect. After this I gave him a gentle Purge of *Rhubarb* and *Sene* to open his Body, which had been very much bound. These things procured the Gentle-

man considerable Ease and Refreshment; and then I ply'd him close with his former Drink and outward Applications, which in a little time produced the same Flux of Humours as before, which continued running for the space of four Months, in all which time he continued brisk and lively, declaring himself so extremely easy and satisfied with his present Condition, that if I was seven Year a curing him, he would neither grudge nor complain of his Time. But it pleased God to prosper my Endeavours with that Expedition, that I made him sound and well by the next *February*.

A Youth, a Scholar in *Marchant Taylors* School, had the *Evil* very much in one of his Elbows. Two or three *Cauſticks*, as (he told me) had been applied; but as the Humour healed in one place, it broke out afresh in another. An eminent Divine, Chaplain to his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, desired me to take care of him, and to Cure him, if it it were possible; which I did in a very short time. It's two Years since he was cured and went to *Cambridge*, from whom I have never heard of any other Breakings out.

THomas *Carter*, a Caulker in *Rotherith*, by a Blow given him with a Mallet on the top of his Thumb, had a very large scrophulous Tumor on that part. A Surgeon had laid it open, and treated it with the usual Methods in those Cases. The Fellow's Hand grew worse

and

and worſe, and ſome talked that his Thumb muſt be cut off to ſave his Hand. He was brought to my Houſe, *May* 18, 1708. to ſee if I could do him any good. I told his Friends, when his *Surgeon* had done with him, I would try what I could do. The young Man with his Friends went directly to acquaint the Surgeon, who ſent me word, with all his heart; he was tir'd out, not being able to do any thing more for his Patient than what he had already done. Upon this I dreſſed his Sore with my Remedies; and tho' he was a rude, careleſs and negligent Fellow, oftner drunk than ſober, I did cure his Ulcer firm and ſound, and brought him to the Uſe of his Thumb and Hand, not being able to uſe either before he came to me.

MRs. *Linley*'s Son, formerly at the Sign of the Riſing Sun in *Fanchurch-ſtreet*, a Hoſier's Shop, I cured of the *Evil* in his Face. What is become of the Child ſince I know not.

MRs. *Lambert*'s Child of *Iſlington* had very ſore Eyes, and breakings out in her Arms. I cured her in about ſix Months.

A Gentleman living at *Solebay*, *Suffolk*, was very much troubled with running Sores in his Face. He applied himſelf to me by a Letter for a Cure. Accordingly I ſupply'd him with Medicines and Inſtructions at that diſtance, from whom I have had ſeveral Letters that he is well, and continues in good Health, free from

any Returns of the Humour to this very Day.

MRs. *Rounsevall*'s Daughter, at the three Mariners in *Deptford*, as severely afflicted with the *Evil* in her Eyes and in her Neck, as I have known a Child, when she came to me. The Cure proved so tedious, that her Mother sometimes despaired of reaping any Benefit from my Applications; I told the young Woman's Mother, that if she had but Patience and Resolution to suffer her Daughter to continue the Use of the Means, tho' her Eyes did sometimes relapse, she would find that I should conquer the Humour, and make a compleat Cure in time. It pleased God that I was as good as my Word. The young Woman being as well now as any other in that Town.

I Likewise cured Mrs. *Helden*'s Child of sore Eyes, living in *Fore-street* near *Moorfields*.

MRs. *Margaret Russel*'s Daughter of *Whybourne*, *Dorsetshire*, I cured of a swelled Lip.

A Young Man in *Fore-street* near *Moore-gate* came to my House, *April* 26. 1710. with several running Sores in his right Elbow. He wanted me to promise him a *perfect Cure*. I told him he mistook the Man. Why, Sir, quoth he, you have done many great Cures, and why may you not cure me also? But without Promises, Bonds, or Contracts, said I, and

and if you are willing to try the Means as others have done, leaving the Success to the Almighty, you are welcome to my Assistance; which he agreed to. Accordingly I gave him some Vials of my *Specifick* Drops, to take 15 at a Time, in his common Table-drink thrice a-day, Dressings for his Sores, and Rules for his *Diet*. I had no other Trouble with him, but to give him what Medicines he wanted, and before *August* he had not one Sore or Swelling about him. If his Sores do not break out again, as I hope (by all Circumstances) they will not, it may pass for *a perfect Cure beyond Relapse*.

A Child about two Years old, immediately after the *Small-pox*, had a large Tumour on its right Arm, a Physician, as the Lady (the Child's Mother) told me recommended her to me, assuring her from his own Knowledge I had one of the best Remedies in the World for curing the *King's Evil*. The Tumour was very hard. I advis'd the Lady to give her Child my *Specifick* Liquor for its constant Drink, which she did, and, in about 7 Days time the Tumour broke, discharging much filthy Matter. The Sore was dress'd twice a Day, Morning and Night, with my *Specifick* Cerecloth, and in a Months time the Ulcer healed, without any other Trouble; the Child not having ever since the least Spot or Blemish about her.

A Young-man about 19 Years of Age, having for many Years been very much troubled with a *white dry Scab*, from the Crown of his Head

Head to his very Feet: For the Cure whereof, his Parents had tried every Thing they could hear of, but to little or no Purpoſe. I gave him my *Specifick* Liquor for his conſtant *Drink*, ordering him to eat every Day ſome particular Herbs dreſſed Sallet-wiſe; adviſing him alſo to lie (it being in the Heat of the Summer) in freſh clean Straw: by which Method, in three Months Time, he became perfectly well.

A Gentleman's Daughter about 14 Years of Age, of a weak tender Habit of Body, ever ſince ſhe had the *Small-Pox*, was ſubject to Defluxions in both her Eyes: For the Cure whereof many Endeavours had been uſed by divers Practitioners. When I undertook her Cure, I firſt order'd her Hair to be ſhav'd cloſe, to waſh her Head, Eyes and Ears with my Specifick Water Morning and Night: Alſo to dip her Feet in cold Water every Night going to Bed, and to drink no other Liquor (except a Glaſs of Wine at Meals) for her conſtant Drink, but my Specifick Liquor, by which Means I cur'd her ſo perfectly well of her Defluxions that they never return'd any more.

A Gentleman, *October* 8. 1708. brought his Child to my Houſe, between 7 and 8 Years old. The Boy had a large Tumour on the outſide of his left Knee-Joint, which I obſerv'd was tending to a ſpeedy Suppuration: His Parents were fearful of its Breaking, which they deſir'd might be prevented. I told them in my Opinion it muſt break to ſave his Life; the repel-

ling

ing of those Humours often producing many *Evils*. His Father committed his Son to my Care, and the Means I applied, in a few Days, broke the Tumour, which discharg'd a good and kindly Matter, the Boy being under no manner of Pain nor Confinement; however, after three Months had pass'd, in the Application of my Remedies, his Parents begun to reckon his Cure tedious, and therefore resolv'd to employ a Physician, who, it seems, had told them of a famous Diet-drink he had cur'd abundance of People withal: So that I was dismiss'd with no small Contempt by all Hands. The next Morning after the Gentleman had discharg'd me, a Gentlewoman, with her Son, came to my House to know if I could cure her Child of the *Evil* in his Eyes, and of some other running Sores in his Joints? Pray, Madam, said I, who hath been your Child's Physician? Such a Gentleman, said she, (naming the famous Diet-drink Doctor above-mention'd) How long (said I again to her) hath your Son taken of his Diet-Drink? Above a Twelve-month, reply'd the Lady. To make short of this Story, I undertook her Child's Cure, which I effected in three Months. A finer Boy is hardly to be seen in *London* than he is now grown. The other Child, with his famous Doctor's Diet-drink, is not yet cured, and I fear never will, being, I am confident, fallen into a deep Consumption.

Fears and Jealousies, in these Cases, do frequently run a great many People into heavier Evils

Evils and Misfortunes than this Diſtemper would bring upon them if let alone. The Loſs of my Fore-finger on the left Hand, I am confident was wholly owing to my own Mother's timerous Temper, who, being over-perſwaded by a Surgeon, to launce the Tumour between the Joints, to prevent (as he ſaid) the fouling of the Bone, did, by that very Means deprive me of its Uſe for ever.

A Gentleman in *Glocester-ſhire* came up to *London*, with his only Son, to get him cured of the *Kings-Evil*, and among ſome others he ſends for me to adviſe withal. So ſoon as I ſaw the Child, I told him if he could give me the Wealth of the *Indies*, I could not cure him. He told me that a famous Man, not far from *Lincolns-Inn*, would engage to cure his Child in ſix Weeks, no Cure no Money. If he doth, quoth I, I'll pay for that Cure, let it coſt what it will. Two Months afterwards I met the Gentleman in *Fleetſtreet*, who, with Tears in his Eyes, told me that his famous Practitioner had not fulfill'd his Promiſe, his Son every Day waxing worſe and worſe, he reſolv'd (as he ſaid by good Advice) to put his Child under ſome particular *manual Operations*, which were, as I underſtand, perform'd on the *Monday*, and the following *Wedneſday*-night, about 6, the poor Child died convulſive. In my former Diſcourſes with this Child's Father, I had ſhewed him the ill Conſequences of ſuch Methods, that his Child was too weak and feeble to ſuffer the leaſt Severity, that nothing in Nature

Nature could retrieve his Son's Life, and therefore it would be in vain to attempt any thing; but no Perſwaſives nor Examples are ſufficient to reſtrain ſome People from doing themſelves and others Hurt, where great Names and great Authorities interpoſe. I have been inform'd its a ſtanding Order in both our Hoſpitals, That no Perſon afflicted with the *Kings-Evil* ſhall be admitted into thoſe Houſes; which, if procur'd by the Profeſſors of *Phyſick* and *Surgery*, it looks as if they thought this Diſtemper incurable, and if ſo, it ſeems a little incongruous they ſhould meddle with it in their private Practice.

FINIS.

ADVERTISEMENT.

A *Companion to the Altar, shewing the Nature and Necessity of a* Sacramental Preparation, *in order to our worthy receiving the* Holy Communion, *wherein those Fears and Scruples about* Eating and Drinking unworthily, and of incurring our own Damnation thereby, *are proved groundless and unwarrantable. Unto which are added,* Prayers and Meditations *preparative to a* Sacramental Preparation, *according to what the Church of* England *requires from her Communicants. The 6th Edition. By* William Vickers, M. A.

The present and future Advantages of a peaceable and quiet Temper, recommended in a Sermon. By William Vickers, M. A.

Christian Supports under the Troubles of this World, to comfort and succour all those, who in this transitory Life are in Trouble, Sorrow, Need, Sickness, or any other Adversity: *unto which are added Prayers and Meditations suitable for all Persons afflicted in* Mind, Body *or* Estate. *The 2d Edition. By* William Vickers, M. A.

These sold by *Edmund Parker*, at the *Bible* and *Crown* in *Lombard-street*, near *Stocks-market*.

IN *a little Time will be reprinted a Treatise of One Hundred and Thirteen Diseases of the* Eyes *and* Eye-lids: *Written in the Year* 1622. *by that famous Surgeon and Oculist, Mr.* Richard Banister. *With several Additions of excellent Remedies, collected since from the best approved Authors both Ancient and Modern. By* William Vickers, M. A.